

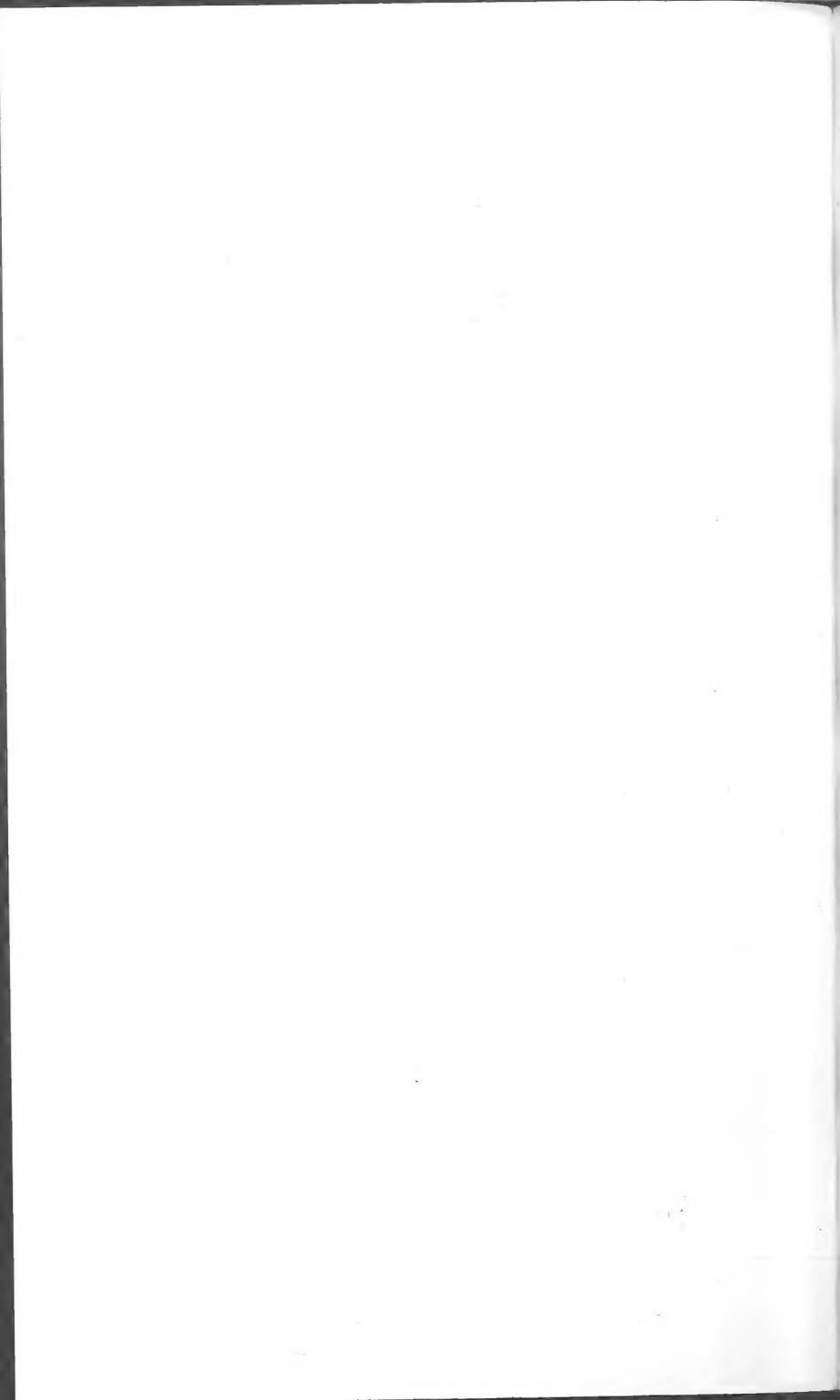
# Modern Gikuyu Dictionary



*Gikuyu-English  
English-Gikuyu*

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# Modern Gikuyu Dictionary

Gikuyu-English

English-Gikuyu

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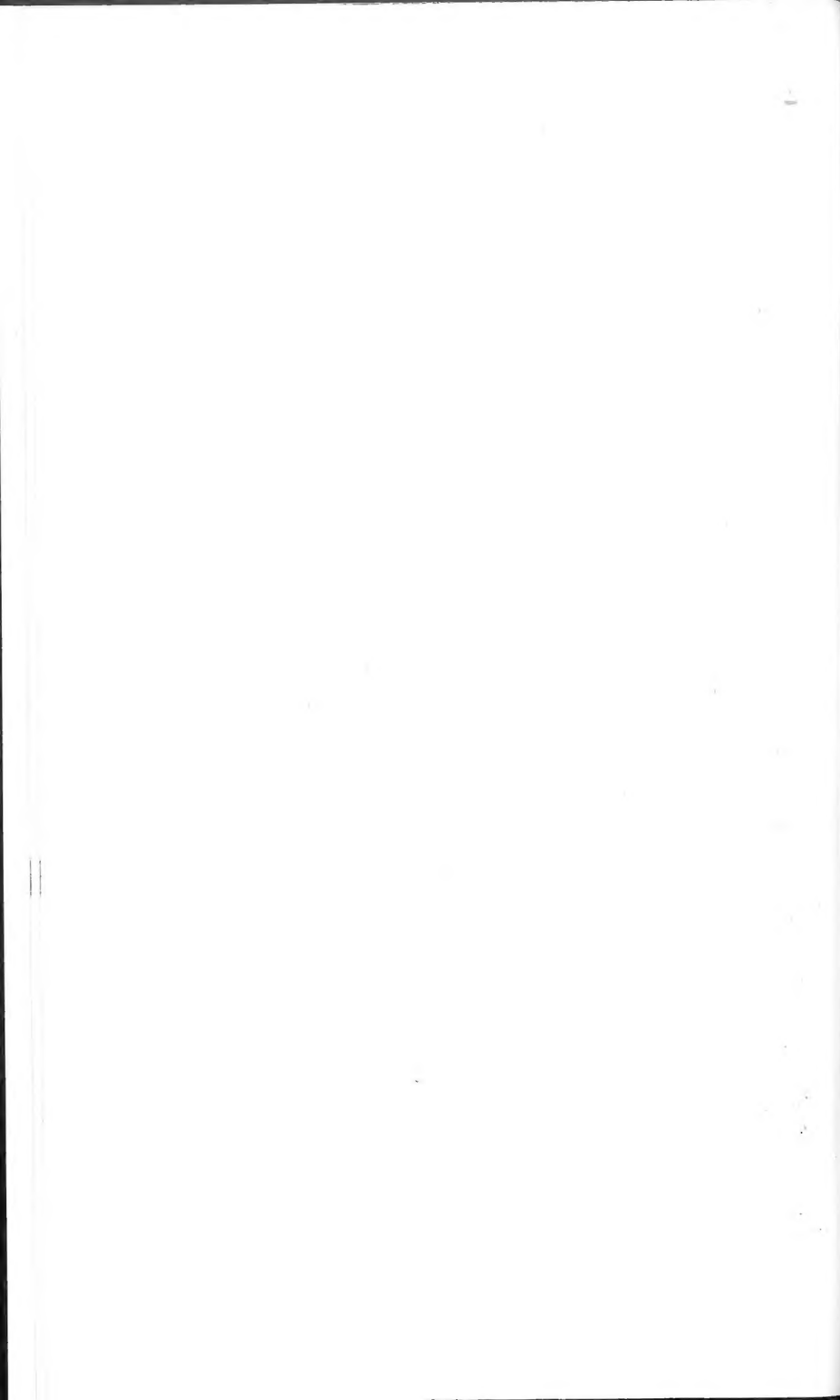
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Modern Gikuyu dictionary

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Auntie Dorcas



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# How to use this dictionary

Hello! This dictionary is created to help you learn better! Keep it by your side when reading English and Gikuyu books.

If you are reading and you never have to use a dictionary, then it means you are ready to read more advanced texts! Well done!

Entries in this dictionary are arranged alphabetically in both the GIKUYU-ENGLISH section and the ENGLISH-GIKUYU section. Here is the Gikuyu alphabet to jog your memory:

Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Gg
Hh	Ii	Īī	Jj	Kk	Mm
Nn	Oo	Rr	Tt	Uu	Ūū
Ww	Yy				

Here are some abbreviations used in this dictionary to show you the function of the word in a sentence:

Abbreviation	Meaning
n	A <b>noun</b> is a name
adj	An <b>adjective</b> shows the quality of a noun
p	A <b>pronoun</b> points to a noun
v	A <b>verb</b> is an action
adv	An <b>adverb</b> shows the intensity of a verb

We wish you many happy reading adventures in English and Gikuyu!

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# Modern Gikuyu

Modern Gikuyu is a more readable form of written Gikuyu.

This short guide is designed to get you up to speed quickly with the modern Gikuyu language. We hope that after getting through it you will be able to read, write and speak basic Gikuyu sentences to express the following range of concepts:

1. I love you
2. Omari and Abdi are boys
3. John came here before I did
4. Who is that?
5. Amina will come home tomorrow
6. I came, I saw, I conquered
7. They do not like that
8. How did they eat five pizzas in two hours?
9. The family has entered their new house
10. Stop eating and hurry up!

For teachers of Gikuyu, this guide should provide you a basic outline for getting your new language learners to master the basic structure of the Gikuyu language. **Modern Gikuyu** is a spelling system for Gikuyu that uses spaces to separate pronouns from verbs. It is the spelling system used in this book.

## Some explanations

In the text, any text marked with \* indicates ungrammatical usage. Bolded text can be looked up in the index. The guide attempts to use plain English the first time a concept is explained; in this case the technical term is included in square brackets.

Pronunciations are surrounded by /.../ signs.

Written form    a

Spoken form    /a/

English translations are placed in italics in [ ] near their Gikuyu renditions.

We hope that this guide will help open up the culture of the Gikuyu-speaking peoples all over the world to you.

# Reading Gikuyu

The easiest way to learn the rules [**grammar**] of a language is to read text written in that language. This section will help you analyse Gikuyu texts to extract meaning from them.

## Recognising letters

Gikuyu is written with 20 letters [**alphabet**] (1).

## Recognising words

The main types of words--**parts of speech**--used in Gikuyu are those that represent persons, places, things or ideas--**nouns**, and actions--**verbs**.

Aa	Bb	Cc	Dd	Ee	Gg
Hh	Ii	Ĩĩ	Jj	Kk	Mm
Nn	Oo	Rr	Tt	Uu	Ũũ
Ww	Yy				

Table 1: Gikuyu alphabet

## Nouns

The nouns in every language are unlimited. Everything that has a name is a noun. Nouns can be represented by a single word or a group of words. Languages grow by making up new nouns to represent new things.

There are two main types of Modern Gikuyu nouns:

**person nouns, and**  
**regular nouns.**

Note that formal written Gikuyu often has up to 10 types of nouns!

Gikuyu nouns dictate a lot about how the other parts of speech in a sentence are written down. This behaviour is called **concord** because all the parts of speech must agree with each other in a grammatically correct sentence.

When there is just one item of the noun [**singular**] or the noun cannot be counted, you do not need to modify the spelling in any way. When there is more than one [**plural**] of the noun, the spelling is modified to indicate this.

Regular nouns and person nouns form their plurals differently.

### Person nouns

Person nouns generally begin with **mũ** when referring to the singular person. When referring to the plural, **mũ** [/mo/] is replaced by a [/a/] at the beginning (**prefix**) of the person noun.

Where the singular begins with **ka**, it is replaced in the plural by **tũ**.

	Singular	Plural
Gikuyu	<b>mūtumia</b>	<b>atumia</b>
English	woman	women
Gikuyu	<b>mūthuri</b>	<b>athuri</b>
English	man	men
Gikuyu	<b>kairītu</b>	<b>tūirītu</b>
English	girl	girls
Gikuyu	<b>kahīi</b>	<b>tūhīi</b>
English	boy	boys

Table 2: Person nouns

### Regular nouns

Regular nouns form plurals predictably depending on their meaning (semantic class).

<i>Suggests</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
not a person	<b>mū</b>	<b>mī</b>
	<u>mūtī</u> [tree]	<u>mītī</u> [trees]
	<u>mūrango</u> [door]	<u>mīrango</u> [doors]
	<u>mūkebe</u> [tin]	<u>mīkebe</u> [tins]
objects	<b>gī</b>	<b>i</b>
	<u>gītī</u> [chair]	<u>itī</u> [chairs]
	<u>gīkombe</u> [cup]	<u>ikombe</u> [cups]
	<u>gītanda</u> [bed]	<u>itanda</u> [beds]
objects	<b>r</b>	<b>ma</b>
	<u>ritho</u> [eye]	<u>maitho</u> [eyes]

Table 3: Regular nouns and their meaning-based groups.

So if the singular starts with **mũ**, the plural is formed by changing **mũ** to

- **a** if a person, or
- **mĩ** if not a person.

If the singular starts with **gĩ**, the plural is formed by changing **gĩ** to **i**.

When in doubt, try with **mũ** as the singular prefix, and **ma** as the plural prefix for nouns.

## Describe Nouns - Adjectives

The quality of a noun is described by **adjectives**. Adjectives are placed after the noun. For example,

nyumba njerũ [new house].

Again, since the noun dictates the form of all the other parts of speech, there are also two main types of adjectives:

- **person adjectives**, and
- **regular adjectives**.

Each adjective used to describe a noun must agree with the noun. Adjectives take the same prefixes as nouns.

### Person adjectives

When an adjective describes a singular person noun, **mũ** is attached in front of the adjective. In older texts, this may also be represented as **mw**.

When referring to a plural person noun, **a** is attached to the front of the adjective. In older texts, the **a** may not be present since in the spoken form it is hardly distinct from the next vowel in the adjective.

### Regular adjectives

Regular adjectives form alliterations with the nouns they are describing.

As with nouns, when in doubt, try with **mũ** as the singular prefix, and **ma** as the plural prefix for adjectives.

	Singular	Plural
Swahili	<u>m</u> ūtumia <u>m</u> ūerū	<u>a</u> tumia <u>a</u> erū
English	new wife	new wives
Swahili	<u>m</u> ūiritū <u>m</u> ūthaka	<u>a</u> iritū <u>a</u> thaka
English	beautiful lady	beautiful ladies
Swahili	<u>m</u> ūrutani <u>m</u> ūūrū	<u>a</u> rutani <u>a</u> ūrū
English	bad teacher	bad teachers

Table 4: Adjectives **erū**, **thaka**, and **ūrū** with person nouns.

<u>m</u> ū	<u>m</u> ī
<u>m</u> ūrango <u>m</u> ūerū [new door]	<u>m</u> īrango <u>m</u> īerū [new doors]
<u>m</u> ūti <u>m</u> ūega [good tree]	<u>m</u> īti <u>m</u> īega [good trees]
<u>g</u> ĩ	<u>n</u> j
<u>g</u> ĩti <u>k</u> īerū [new chair]	<u>ĩ</u> tĩ <u>n</u> jerū [new chairs]
<u>g</u> ĩti <u>k</u> īega [good chair]	<u>ĩ</u> tĩ <u>n</u> jega [good chairs]
<u>r</u> ĩ	<u>ma</u>
<u>r</u> itho <u>r</u> īerū [new eye]	<u>ma</u> itho <u>ma</u> erū [new eyes]
<u>r</u> itho <u>r</u> īega [good eye]	<u>ma</u> itho <u>ma</u> ega [good eyes]
<u>m</u> ū	<u>ma</u>
<u>ũ</u> thiũ <u>m</u> ūerū [new face]	<u>mo</u> thiũ <u>ma</u> erū [new faces]
<u>ũ</u> thiũ <u>m</u> ūega [good face]	<u>mo</u> thiũ <u>ma</u> ega [good faces]

Table 5: Adjectives **erū** and **ega** with regular nouns.

## Determiners

Where there is an article, it is written after the noun.

- **definite articles**

kairĩtu kau [*the girl*], kahĩĩ kau [*the boy*]

kahĩĩ karĩa [*that boy*]

- **indefinite articles**

kahĩĩ [*a boy, or, boy*]

mũgima [*an adult, or, adult*]

kahĩĩ o ũguo [*some boy*]

## Pronouns

Happily, pronouns can stand in for any noun. Which means that if you don't know the name of something, point at it and use a pronoun to refer to it instead!

There are two main types--just like the nouns they refer to:

**person pronouns, and**

**regular pronouns.**

### Person pronouns

Subject pronouns usually replace a person noun at the beginning of a sentence. All subject pronouns come before a verb. For example,

**nĩ thiaga** [*I go*].

In older texts, the pronoun is usually written together with the verb as **nĩthiaga**.

nĩ	<i>I</i>	ndi	<i>not I</i>
nĩũ	<i>you</i>	ndũ	<i>not you</i>
nĩa	<i>she/he</i>	nda	<i>not she/not he</i>
nĩtũ	<i>we</i>	tũti	<i>not we</i>
nĩmũ	<i>you (plural)</i>	mũti	<i>not you (plural)</i>
nĩma	<i>they</i>	mati	<i>not they</i>

Table 6: Subject pronouns for person nouns

Object pronouns come right before the verb when used. Object pronouns, listed in Table 7, are also written alone. For example,

**Nĩũ nye ndete** [(*You me love\**) *You love me*].

nĩa <b>nye</b> ndete	he loves <b>me</b>
nĩa <b>kwe</b> ndete	he loves <b>you</b>
nĩa <b>mwe</b> ndete	he loves <b>her</b>
nĩa <b>mwe</b> ndete	she loves <b>him</b>
nĩa <b>twe</b> ndete	he loves <b>us</b>
nĩa <b>mwe</b> ndete	he loves <b>you (plural)</b>
nĩa <b>me</b> ndete	he loves <b>them</b>

Table 7: Object pronouns for person nouns.

### Regular pronouns

Regular pronouns behave similarly. But there are only two to remember: **it**, and **they/them**.

They are placed right before the verb whenever they are used. Look at this example involving **gũthoma** [*to read*]

Ibuku rĩĩ. Nĩ-ndĩ-rĩ-thomete  
[*This book. I have read it*].

Mabuku maya. Nĩ-ndĩ-**ma**-thomete  
[*These books. I have read them*]

Interrogative pronouns, listed in Table 8, are used to ask questions.

Gikuyu	English
nũ	who
nĩĩ	what
nĩĩ gĩtũmi	why
kũ	where
atĩa	how
ĩĩkũ	which

Table 8: Interrogative pronouns.

## Verbs

Remember to ask yourself whenever you see a Gikuyu verb:

- what is the indication of the period of time in which the action took place [**tense**]?,

### The Infinitive - Describe the verb's action

In English, the infinitive is indicated by **to** placed before the verb. In Gikuyu, it is either **kũ**, or **gũ** if the verb starts with **c**, **k**, **t**, **th** or a vowel.

Gikuyu	English
gũ-ika	to do
gũ-kua	to die
gũ-thoma	to read
kũ-geithia	to greet
kũ-ria	to eat

Table 9: Infinitive verbs

### Present Habitual - Action takes place habitually

This is for actions that take place on a regular basis [**habitual tense**]. Note that this tense doesn't use special pronouns.

Gikuyu	Literal English
nĩĩ nĩ thomaga	Me, I read <b>habitually</b>
Amina nĩa thomaga	Amina, she reads <b>habitually</b>

Table 10: Simple present habitual tense.

### **Present Continuous - Action is taking place**

This is for an action in the process of taking place. It is indicated with **ra** in front of the verb.

Gikuyu	Literal English
<b>nĩ rathoma</b>	<b>I am reading</b>
Amina nĩa <b>rathoma</b>	Amina, she <b>is reading</b>

Table 11: Simple present continuous tense.

### **Past - Action took place in the past**

The simple past is indicated by adding **ra** to the front of the verb AND replacing the **a** at the end of the verb with **ire**.

Gikuyu	Literal English
<b>nĩ rathekire</b>	<b>I cooked</b>
Amina nĩa <b>rathekire</b>	Amina, she <b>cooked</b>

Table 12: Past simple tense.

### **Future - Action will take place**

The future tense is indicated by inserting the Gikuyu for **will** in front of the verb. **will** is indicated by **ka** or **ga** if the verb starts with **c, k, t, th** or a vowel.

Gikuyu	Literal English
nĩ gathoma	I <b>will</b> read
Amina nĩa gathoma	Amina, she <b>will</b> read
nĩ karia	I <b>will</b> eat
Amina nĩa karia	Amina, she <b>will</b> eat

Table 13: Future simple tense.

## Describe Verbs - Adverbs

**Adverbs** describe the intensity of an action.

Like **adjectives**, **adverbs** are also placed after the verb. For example,

we nĩũ rĩaga **i**henya [you, you eat **quickly**].

## Recognising sentences

There are three main sentence patterns you can use to communicate with others:

- making a statement [**declarative sentences**]
- asking a question [**interrogative sentences**]
- commanding [**imperative sentences**]

### Making a statement

e.g. *I love you.*

Gikuyu	Word Order	ni	kwe	ndete
	Grammar	[Noun]	[Noun]	[Verb]
		<i>required</i>	<i>optional</i>	<i>required</i>
	Literally*	I	you	love

So in the negative, *I do not love you* will follow the same pattern:

Gikuyu Word Order	ndi	kwe	ndete
Grammar	[Noun]	[Noun]	[Verb]
	<i>required</i>	<i>optional</i>	<i>required</i>
Literally*	not I	you	love

### Asking a question

e.g. *Where are you going?*

Gikuyu Word Order	Wa	thĩĩ	kũ?
Grammar	[Noun]	[Verb]	[Interrogative pronoun]
	<i>required</i>	<i>required</i>	<i>required</i>
Literally*	You	go	where?

### Commanding

e.g. *Stop making noise!*

Gikuyu Word Order	Tiga	kūnegena!
Grammar	[Verb]	[Noun]
	<i>required</i>	<i>optional</i>
Literally*	Stop	making noise!

## Forming complex sentences

**Conjunctions** allow you to combine two or more similar components. These components may be two or more. For example, two nouns, or, three verbs, or five sentences.

Some common conjunctions are listed in Table 14.

Gikuyu	Omari <b>na</b> Abdi	rĩai <b>na</b> mũcoke mũkome
English	Omari <b>and</b> Abdi	eat <b>and</b> then sleep
Gikuyu	Omari <b>kana</b> Abdi	nĩakomete <b>kwoguo</b> koma
English	Omari <b>or</b> Abdi	I am sleeping <b>so</b> sleep
Gikuyu	<b>Akorwo</b> Amina ...	<b>Akorwo</b> Amina nĩagũka <b>nawe</b> , ...
English	<b>If</b> Amina ...	<b>If</b> Amina comes <b>then</b> ...
Gikuyu	<b>Ngĩ</b> ...	<b>Ona ndakorwo</b> ngomete ...
English	<b>While, When</b> I ...	<b>Even if</b> I sleep ...

Table 14: Common conjunctions.

**Prepositions** on the other hand are placed after nouns to indicate the position of some other noun. Table 15 lists some common prepositions.

Gikuyu	nĩ <b>ta</b> fufu	<b>ta ũrĩa</b> Buliva aroigire
English	it is <b>like</b> fufu	<b>as</b> Buliva said
Gikuyu	thĩĩ <b>ni</b>	thĩĩ <b>thĩ</b>
English	go <b>in</b>	go <b>down</b>
Gikuyu	thĩĩ <b>mbere ya</b> Amina oke	thĩĩ <b>ume</b> haha
English	go <b>before</b> Amina comes	go <b>from</b> here
Gikuyu	ũka <b>hakuĩ</b> nanĩĩ	thĩĩ <b>thutha</b>
English	come <b>near</b> me	go <b>behind</b>

Table 15: Common prepositions.

The following sentence patterns therefore become easy to understand:

Omari a-rathĩĩ cukuru

[\*Omari, he-go school

(*Omari is going to school*)]

Omari na Abdi ma-rathĩĩ cukuru

[\*Omari and Abdi, they-go school

(*Omari and Abdi are going to school*)]

Omari na Abdi wa nĩma-komete mbere ya ma-thĩĩ cukuru

[\*Omari and Abdi, they are sleeping before they go school

(*Omari and Abdi are sleeping before they go to school*)]

## How to use a dictionary

Entries are listed first in order of appearance of their first letter. If the first letters are the same, they are further listed in order of appearance of their second letter. If the second letters are the same, they are further listed in order of appearance of their third letter. And so on.

Nouns are listed in the singular form. **kahĩĩ** [boy]

Verbs are listed in their positive form without the infinitive prefix. **thoma** [read]

Adjectives are listed without any indicator of noun agreement. **erũ** [new]

Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of the experimental setup. It shows a subject seated at a table, looking at a video screen. A camera is positioned above the screen, and a light source is positioned to the left. A scale bar is shown at the bottom left.

# GIKUYU-ENGLISH

## A, a

**a** lend (v)

*mpa iuku riri* lend me this book

**aciari** parents (n)

*aciari bawe* his parents

**Afrika** Africa (n)

*Cera Afrika* visit Africa

**aga bata** disgrace (v)

*ugwe ni uku aga bata yakku* you are disgracing yourself

**ageni** foreigner (n)

*ageni bagukinya* the foreigners have arrived

**ai** ouch (excl)

*ail irina murimo* Ouch! It hurts

**aka** build (v)

*aka nyomba* build a house

**aki** just (adj)

*ni waa aki* it is just folly

**amba** paste (v)

*amba ruthingone* to paste it on the wall

**ambiiria** begin (v)

*ambiiria kuria* start eating

**anda** plant (v)

*anda muti* to plant a tree

**antu** humankind (n)

*turi antu* we are humankind

**antu banaana** eight persons (n)

*antu banaana ibeejite* eight persons are coming

**antu betu** in-law (n)

*antu betu* our in-laws

**antu kenda** nine persons (n)

*antu kenda nibejite* nine persons are coming

**ari** no (excl)

*nkuga ari* I say no

**ariiria** bargain (v)

*ariiria uguri* bargain over price

**aritwa** student (n)

*aritwa mirongo iri* twenty students

**atha** govern (v)

*atha Ghana* govern Ghana

**athaki** cast (n)

*athaki ba sinema* cast of a film

**athukira** branch (v)

*athukira aja* branch here

**atia** how (adv)

*urigua atia?* how does it feel?

**au** just (prep)

*Oriria akinyire au* just as he got

there

## B, b

**baba** these (p)

*antu baba bareja* these people came

**babaingi** several (adj)

*antu babaingi ibeejire* several people came

**baisikili** bicycle (n)

*baisikili injeru* new bicycle

**baita** profit (n)

*thithia baita* make profit

**bajuuju batene** ancestor (n)

*bajuuju batene bakwa* my ancestors

**banga** plan (v)

*kiongo kimwe gitibangaga* one head does not plan

**banga** arrange (v)

*banga iti* arrange the chairs

**bathurumu** lavatory (n)

*ita bathurumu* go to the lavatory

**batithia** baptise (v)

*batithia John* baptise John

**bendera** flag (n)

*bendera ya yeluu* yellow flag

**bionthe** all (det)

*into bionthe* all things

**bionthe** everything (p)

*bionthe biguita bwega* everything has gone well

**bisi** fees (n)

*bisi ya cukuru* school fees

**bongwa** themselves (p)

*bagucimenyeera bongwa* they look after themselves well

**bonthe** everyone (p)

*bonthe bakeeja* everyone will come

**bonthe** each and everyone (p)

*bonthe bareeja* each and everyone came

**bubuega** clearly (adv)

*niukumiona bubuega* you see it clearly

**buuruka** fly (v)

*buuruka iguru matuune* to fly into the sky

**bwega** very (adv)

*ukuthithia bwega* you have done very well

**bwega** clearly (adv)

*niukumiona bwega* you see it clearly

## C, c

**canura** comb (v)

*tumira gucanuri gucanura nchi-  
uri ciaku* use a comb to comb your hair

**cenca** march (v)

*asikari ni bagucenca* the soldiers are marching

**cerithiria** delay (v)

*ugucerithiria* you have delayed

**chai** tea (n)

*chai iri na murio* the tea is sweet

**chenji** change (n)  
*wina chenji* do you have change?  
**cia** for (prep)  
*cia bautwi* for ourselves  
**cibitari** hospital (n)  
*ita cibitari* go to a hospital  
**cimiti** cement (n)  
*maiga na cimiti* stones and cement  
**ciothe** all (det)  
*Indo ciothe* all things  
**cukuru** school (n)  
 a place where learning happens  
*I learn to read at school*  
**cuna** lick (v)  
*kuru ni igucuna kironda kiayo*  
 the dog is licking its sore  
**cunca** kiss (v)  
*cunca miromo yakwa* kiss my lips  
**cuncha** embrace (v)  
*ncuncha* embrace me  
**cuuba** bottle (n)  
*cuuba ithano* five bottles  
**cuuma** metal (n)  
*nkobia ya cuuma* hat of metal  
**cuuria** hang (v)  
*cuuria au* hang it there  
**cwaa** look for (v)  
*cwaa maana* to look for meaning

## D, d

**daawa** medicine (n)  
*daawa iri na ngana* bitter medicine

**dakinga** second (n)  
*ndakinga ikumi* ten seconds

## E, e

**egera** clear (v)  
*egera mimero* clear your throat  
**ejana** donate (v)  
*ejana kiri bo* let us donate to them  
**enda** love (v)  
*ni nkwendete* I love you  
**enketha** belch (v)  
*ria indi enketha* eat then belch  
**ereithia** explain (v)  
*mbereithia* explain to me  
**eruka** melt (v)  
*maguta ni ja kueruka* the sheabutter is melting

## F, f

**famili** family (n)  
*famili injeru* new family  
**freshi** fresh (adj)  
*mathangu freshi* fresh leaves

## G, g

**ga** let (v)  
*ga twaambire gikundi* let us found a group  
**Gacicia** June (n)  
*June* has 30 days

**gaciu** knife (n)  
*noora gaciu* sharpen a knife  
**gamba** bark (v)  
*kuru ni iku-gamba* a dog barks  
**garuka** change (v)  
*igita riagaruka, garuka na igi-ita* if time changes, change with the times  
**gatagati-inĩ ka** amongst (prep)  
*Gatagati-inĩ ka andũ* amongst people  
**gatigati** amongst (prep)  
*gatigati ga antu* amongst people  
**gatigati** middle (adj)  
*kara gatigati* be in the middle  
**gatu ga gwikira matu** earpiece (n)  
*gantu gakeru gagwikira matu* new earpiece  
**Gatumu** December (n)  
*December* has 31 days  
**gia** give birth (v)  
*gia twana twa maatha* to give birth to twins  
**gia iu** be pregnant (v)  
*nkugia iu* I am pregnant  
**gichanuri** comb (n)  
*tumira gichanuri guchanura nchiuri* use a comb to comb your hair  
**Gicunku** English (n)  
*Mbaragia Gicunku* I speak English  
**giempe** drum (n)  
*inkuigua iempe* I hear the drums

**giita** cut (v)  
*giita keki maita jairi* to cut the cake in two  
**gikaro** habitat (n)  
*gikaro kia nyomoo* habitat of animals  
**gikeno** happiness (n)  
*gikeno gigukinya* happiness has arrived  
**gikiega** good (adj)  
*kiewa gikiega* a good gift  
**gikinya** heel (n)  
*kiara gia kuguru na gikinya* toe and heel  
**gikombe** cup (n)  
*gikombe gia chai* tea cup  
**gikonyo** snail (n)  
*ni ndijaga gikonyo* I eat snails  
**gikumenyeka** distinguished (adj)  
*kiura gikumenyeka* a distinguished frog  
**gikundi** group (n)  
*twambirie gikundi* let us found a group  
**gikundi** grove (n)  
*gikundi kia miti* grove of spirits  
**gikuyu** fish (n)  
*gikuyu gikarangi* fried fish  
**gikuyu** fish (v)  
*twite tukagwatie gikuyu* let's go and fish  
**gintu** thing (n)  
*gintu, into the thing; the things*  
**gintu gia kumamiria mutwe** pillow (n)

- gintu gia kumamiria mutwe na** *fallen down*  
**gitanda** *pillow and bed*  
**gitambaa** *cloth (n)*  
*ikira gitambaa wear cloth*  
**gitambaa** *fabric (n)*  
*ngurira gitambaa buy fabric for me*  
**gitambaa gia kiongo** *headgear (n)*  
*oga gitambaa gia kiongo put on headgear*  
**gitame** *garment (n)*  
*ikira gitame wear a garment*  
**gitanda** *bed (n)*  
*Mama iguru ria gitanda sleep on the bed*  
**gitaru** *boat (n)*  
*gitaru gigitune red boat*  
**Gĩthathanwa** *May (n)*  
*May has 31 days*  
**Gĩthũngũ** *English (n)*  
*nĩnjaragia Gĩthũngũ I speak English*  
**giti** *chair (n)*  
*banga iti arrange the chairs*  
**gituma** *noise (n)*  
*tiga kuringa gituma stop making noise*  
**gitumi** *reason (n)*  
*untu bunthe buri na gitumi everything has a reason*  
**guaa ndene** *fall into (v)*  
*guaa ndene ya kirinya fall into a pit*  
**guaa nthi** *fall down (v)*  
*nkara ikuguaa nthi the egg has*
- fallen down*  
**guaiya** *frighten (v)*  
*guaiya antu babathuku frighten evil people*  
**guciata** *fast (v)*  
*guciata na kuromba fast and pray*  
**gucienda** *selfishness (n)*  
*gucienda guti thongi selfishness is not good*  
**guciendithia** *befriend (v)*  
*guciendithia uni befriend me*  
**gucindwa** *defeat (n)*  
*ushindi na gucindwa victory and defeat*  
**guciumia** *determination (n)*  
*tutakithia na guciumia we will do it with determination*  
**gukaatha** *exultation (n)*  
*ndwimbo cia gukaatha songs of exultation*  
**gukara bwega** *prosperity (n)*  
*thiiri na gukara bwega peace and prosperity*  
**gũkenania** *amusing (adj)*  
*Rũgano rwa gũkenania amusing story*  
**gukenia** *entertaining (adj)*  
*ni i gukenia it is entertaining*  
**gukia** *daybreak (n)*  
*gukia na muundu kuingira day-break and nightfall*  
**gukima** *pound (v)*  
*gukima fufu I pound fufu*  
**gukira** *fear (v)*  
*gukira irundu bia akuu fear an*

apparition

**gukua** die (v)

*gukua urimuniini itindene* to die  
young in the play

**gukua** crawl (v)

*mwana niagukua* the child is  
crawling

**gukura** grow (v)

*mwana agukura* the child has  
grown

**gukura mono** overgrow (v)

*nyunjuri igukura mono* the back-  
yard is overgrown

**guntanga** bother (v)

*ugwe ni uguntanga* you are both-  
ering me

**guntu** place (n)

*guntu kuriku?* which place?

**gura** buy (v)

*gura gintu* to buy something

**gura** marry (v)

*ngura* marry me

**gusumbura** bother (n)

*gusumbura mono* too much  
bother

**guta** gossip (v)

*kumuguta* gossip about her

**gutanga** bother (n)

*gutanga gukuingi* too much  
bother

**gūtaranīria** addition (n)

$1 + 1 = 2$ ; *gūkū nī gūtaranīria*  $1 + 1$   
 $= 2$ ; this is addition

**guteta** argue (v)

*guteta nawe* argue with him

**gutethani** generosity (n)

*gutethania gwaku* your generos-  
ity

**gutikio** nothing (n)

*gutikio ndinakio* I have nothing

**gutu** ear (n)

*gutu na nyuiuru* ear and nose

**gutumiiria** proclamation (n)

*gutumiiria uhuru bwa umuntu*  
proclamation of the rights of hu-  
mankind

**guturikana** overturn (v)

*karai gaguturikana* the pan has  
overturned

**gwakana** blazing (adj)

*mwanki ju gwakana* blazing fire

**gwata** catch (v)

*gwata mubira* catch the ball

**gwata** hold (v)

*gwata njara yakwa* hold my hand

**gwatia** kindle (v)

*gwatia mwanki* kindle a fire

**gwatithania** attach (v)

*gwatithania na ruthingo* attach  
to wall

**gwenketha** hiccups (n)

*nia a gwenketha* he has got the  
hiccups

**gwtikia** doubt (n)

*ati gwtikia* she has doubts

**gwitura** leak (v)

*mutungi juju ni jugwitura* the  
bucket leaks

I, i

- i njiru** black (adj)  
*nguo i njiru* black cloth  
**i njumo** dry (adj)  
*nthi i njumo* dry land  
**i nkuru** old (adj)  
*pani i nkuru* old pan  
**i nthongi** beautiful (adj)  
*ni i nthongi* it is beautiful  
**ibuku** book (n)  
*this book*  
**icokio** answer (v)  
*mpa icokio* answer me  
**icungwa** orange (adj)  
*ikira kobia ya rangi ya icungwa*  
*wear the orange cap*  
**iembe** mango (n)  
*iembe rikuguunda* the mango has ripened  
**iembe** mango (n)  
*iembe rikugunda* the mango has ripened  
**igiita** moment (n)  
*igiita rikuthira* the moment is up  
**igita** period (n)  
*imwe gaturumo ithano ni imwe na nusu* 1.5 is one and a half.  
**igo** tooth (n)  
*thambia maigo jaku* brush your teeth  
**igoro** yesterday (adv)  
*arakinyire igoro* she arrived yesterday  
**igoti** court (n)  
*mbitite igotine* I am going to court
- igua ruriitho** be jealous (v)  
*igua ruriitho iguru ria mukuru wawe* be jealous over her husband  
**iguru** sky (n)  
*buuruka wite iguru* to fly into the sky  
**iguru** on (prep)  
*mama iguru ria metha* sleep on the table  
**iguru** up (adv)  
*tega iguru* look up  
**igwe mpio** cool (v)  
*tiga igwe mpio* let it cool  
**ija** come (v)  
*kuija aja* to come here  
**ijiri** two (adj)  
*kuri na cuuba ijiri ruthingone*  
*There are two bottles on the wall*  
**ikia miruki** breathe (v)  
*ikia miruki aniini; nogoka*  
*breathe a little; take a breather*  
**ikira kiongo** memorize (v)  
*gwikira kiongo* to memorize  
**ikumi na imwe** eleven (adj)  
*cuuba ikumi na imwe* eleven bottles  
**ikumi na inyanya** eighteen (adj)  
*cuuba ikumi na inyanya* eighteen bottles  
**ikumi na ithano** fifteen (adj)  
*cuuba ikumi na ithano* fifteen bottles  
**imenyithia** news (n)  
*imenyithia bia mauntu* news of

- the realm  
**imitune** red (adj)  
*miromo imitune* red lips  
**imwe** one (adj)  
*kuri na cuuba imwe irungamire*  
*iguru ria nyomba* There is one  
 bottle standing on top of the house  
**indaaja** long (adj)  
*kireru gikiraaja* long beard  
**indi** but (conj)  
*i nkumienda, indi* I like it, but  
**indigo** indigo (adj)  
*nguo ya indigo* indigo cloth  
**inga** chase (v)  
*gutiwe umwingatite* no one is  
 chasing him  
**inga** close (v)  
*kuinga mulango* to close the door  
**ingia** increase (v)  
*wamba bukingia* burglary is in-  
 creasing  
**ingura aniini** prop (v)  
*ingura murango aniini* prop the  
 door  
**ing'ana** how much (adj)  
*ing'ana atia?* how much is it?  
**inja** dig (v)  
*inja irinya* to dig a hole  
**injeru** new (adj)  
*famili injeru* new family  
**injumo** parched (adj)  
*ngozi injumo* parched skin  
**inkuru** outdated (adj)  
*lori inkuru* outdated lorry  
**inthuku** bad (adj)  
*kuru inthuku* bad dog  
**inya** effort (n)  
*inya injega* a good effort  
**inya** press (v)  
*iinya maita mugwanja* to press it  
 seven times  
**inya** power (n)  
*inya na unene* strength and power  
**inya** four (adj)  
 The number 4 *kuri na cuuba*  
*inya ruthingone* There are four  
 bottles on the wall  
**inyanya** eight (adj)  
*cuuba inyanya* eight bottles  
**inyia** fine (adj)  
*thia inye buru* grind it finely  
**inyiiria** oppress (v)  
*ni ugumpinyiiria* you are oppress-  
 ing me  
**irandu** debt (n)  
*ena marandu ja maingi* he has  
 many debts  
**irandu** owe (v)  
*ndina irandu riaku* I owe you  
**iri na utheri** bright (adj)  
*nyomba iri na utheri* bright room  
**irigiritwe na iria** island (n)  
*Sezchelles irigiritwe na iria* Sey-  
 chelles island  
**irigu** banana (n)  
*iruki niliendete irigu* a monkey  
 likes bananas  
**irigu** plantain (n)  
*irigu na mukwacii* plantain and  
 cassava

- irinda** dress (n)  
*irinda ria mbuluu* blue dress
- irinya** pit (n)  
*inja irinya* dig a pit
- irinya** hoe (n)  
*irinya hoe* and cutlass
- irinya** hole (n)  
*irinya riniini* small hole
- irio** food (n)  
*ria irio* eat food
- iromba** prayer (n)  
*iromba ni ririthongi* prayer is good
- iru** knee (n)  
*maru jakwa* my knees
- iruki** monkey (n)  
*iruki riendete marigu* a monkey likes bananas
- irundu bia akuu** apparition (n)  
*gukira irundu bia akuu* fear an apparition
- irundu bibithuku** ghost (n)  
*ndiona irundu bibithuku* I see a ghost
- Isilamu** Islam (n)  
*Ukristu na Uisilamu* Christianity and Islam
- ita** go (v)  
*gwita cukuru* to go to school
- ita** call (v)  
*ita kaiji* to call the boy
- ita kioro** go to the toilet (v)  
*gwita kioro o kiumia* to go to the toilet weekly
- ita mbere** proceed (v)  
*ita mbere kuona* he proceeded to
- see*
- itanambere** continue (v)  
*itanambere na ngugi* continue the work
- ithaa** hour (n)  
*mathaa ikumi* ten hours
- ithangu** leaf (n)  
*ithangu ria ngirini* green leaf
- ithano** five (adj)  
 The number 5 *cuuba ithano* Five bottles
- ithanthatu** six (adj)  
*cuuba ithanthatu* six bottles
- itharimo** blessing (n)  
*Itharimo bia murungu* God's blessing
- ithe** father (n)  
*ithe wa mwana waka ni muntu wetu* my father's child is my sibling
- ithia** burn (v)  
*ithia maratasi jonthe* burn all the papers
- ithikira** grieve (v)  
*nkoro yaka ni ikuithikira* my soul grieves
- ithori** tear (n)  
*meetho jakwa jojurite maithori* my eyes filled with tears
- itia** be wrong (v)  
*ndina maitia?* am I wrong?
- itikia** believe (v)  
*itikia Kofi* believe Kofi
- itikiira** allow (v)  
*Kubaitikiira* allow them

itikiiria accept (v)  
*ku mwitikiiria* accept her  
 itinda play (n)  
*tega itinda* watch a play  
 itithia drive (v)  
*gwitithia ngari* drive a car  
 itumbi ria munda garden egg  
 (n)  
*gitwero kia itumbi ria munda*  
 garden egg stew  
 itumo spear (n)  
*bamumuntire na itumo* they  
 pierced him with a spear  
 ituu cloud (v)  
*iguru rikugia ituu* the sky has  
 clouded  
 ituu cloud (n)  
*ituu ri rieru* a white cloud  
 ituura pour (v)  
*ituura ruuji* pour water  
 iu that (p)  
*nyoni iu* that bird  
 iu it (p)  
*iu ni iguaga* it falls  
 iua flower (n)  
*iua ririthongi* pretty flower  
 iuku book (n)  
*iuku riri* this book  
 iuti boil (n)  
*iuti riri murimo* a boil is painful

## J, j

jama jama (n)  
*ina jama sing jama*

jollof jollof (n)  
*jollof ni irio jollof* is food  
 jukia pick up (v)  
*jukia maiga* pick up the stones  
 Jumamosi Saturday (n)  
*Twana twa muthenya jwa Ju-*  
*mamosi* Saturday children  
 Jumatatũ Monday (n)  
*ciana cia Jumatatũ* Monday chil-  
 dren

## K, k

kaari ka mwariocia niece (n)  
*aari ba mwariocia* my nieces  
 kaatha commend (v)  
*kumukaatha* commend her  
 kabati ga kwojera mati dust-  
 pan (n)  
*kiegeri na kabati ga kwojera*  
 mati broom and dustpan  
 kagiita gakoomo dry season (n)  
*kagiita gakoomo gagukinya* the  
 dry season has arrived  
 kaiji boy (n)  
*Kaiji kari aja* the boy is here  
 kaingi often (adv)  
*ejaga aja kaingi* she often comes  
 here  
 kairi again (adv)  
*kumwona kairi* see her again  
 kaja outside (n)  
*ita kaja* go outside  
 kajau calf (n)  
*Kajau kawo ni gakathongi* her  
 calves are beautiful

- kajea** dove (n)  
*kajea gakeeru* white dove  
**kameme** radio (n)  
*ingurira kameme* switch on the radio  
**kamera** camera (n)  
*gicicio gia kamera* lens of a camera  
**kamindo** cutlass (n)  
*neekeria kamindo* give me the cutlass  
**Kamūgaa** September (n)  
*September* has 30 days  
**kana** or (conj)  
*Kofi kana Ama* Kofi or Ama  
**kana ka ngurwe** piglet (n)  
*twana twa ngurwe* piglets  
**kania** forbid (v)  
*kania we* forbid her  
**kanisa** church (n)  
*ita kanisa* go to church  
**Kanyua Hūngū** November (n)  
*November* has 30 days  
**kaora** slowly (adv)  
*nkuru itaga kaora* a tortoise walks slowly  
**karai** pan (n)  
*karai gagakuru* old pan  
**karamu** pen (n)  
*rangi ya karamu* ink in a pen  
**karamu ka mata** pencil (n)  
*maguta kiri karamu ka mata* grease in a pencil  
**karanga** fry (v)  
*tumira maguta ja mboga*  
*gukaranga gikuyu* use vegetable oil to fry fish  
**karatasi** page (n)  
*ingura karatasi ga mirongo iiri* open page twenty-two  
**kathia** deer (n)  
*simba niyendete nyama ya kathia* a lion likes deer meat  
**kauna** waist (n)  
*kauna gaku* your waist  
**kauna** bodice (n)  
*ekagira nguu ya kauna* she wears a bodice  
**kayamba** castanet (n)  
*inithia kayamba* play the castanets  
**kebab** khebab (n)  
*kebab na ncobi* khebabs and beer  
**kenya na kenya** forever (adv)  
*aturaga kenya na kenya* she lives forever  
**kethia** greet (v)  
*Kethia Ama* greet Ama  
**kethira** if (conj)  
*kethira ni a kwendete* if someone loves you  
**kia** fool (n)  
*Kia!! Kia! Fool! Dimwit!*  
**kiao** leniency (n)  
*mwigirue kiao* show him leniency  
**kiao** empathy (n)  
*ari na kiao* she has such empathy  
**kiara** finger (n)  
*mbonia kiara giaku* show me your finger

**kiara gia kuguru** toe (n)  
*kiara gia kuguru na gikinya* toe  
 and heel

**kiatho** event (n)  
*kiatho gikuambiriria* the event  
 has started

**kiatho** party (n)  
*mbitite kiatho* I am going to a  
 party

**kiatho** event (n)  
*kiatho gikwambiria* the event has  
 started

**kibara** chest (n)  
*nchiuri cia kibara* chest hair

**kibodi** keyboard (n)  
*iinya k kiri kibodi* press k on the  
 keyboard

**kiegeri** broom (n)  
*kiegeri na kabati ga kwojera*  
 mati broom and dustpan

**kiewa** award (n)  
*mue kiewa* give her an award

**kiewa** gift (n)  
*kiewa gikiega* a good gift

**kigeranio** exam (n)  
*kigeranio gikiuthu* the exam is  
 easy

**kigimbi** goosebumps (n)  
*ndina kigimbi* I have got goose-  
 bumps

**kigongoana** sacrifice (n)  
*rita kigongoana* offer a sacrifice

**kīhoti-othe** almighty (adj)  
*Ngai kīhoti-othe* almighty god

**Kīhu** March (n)  
*March* has 31 days

**Kīhu gĩa Kerĩ** October (n)  
*October* has 31 days

**kiimba** corpse (n)  
*kiimba igukora* the corpse is rot-  
 ting

**kilomita** kilometer (n)  
*kilomita ikumi ten* kilometers

**kilomita** kilometre (n)  
*kilomita ikumi ten* kilometres

**kimenyano** favoritism (n)  
*tiga kimenyano* stop the fa-  
 voritism

**kimera** plant (n)  
*kimera gigitune* red plant

**kingangiri** crab (n)  
*subu ya kingangiri* crab soup

**kingangiri** crocodile (n)  
*kingangiri kiendete gukara ruu-*  
*jine* a crocodile likes water

**kingotore** coin (n)  
*ingotore bina* four coins

**kinya** arrive (v)  
*wakinya undingire thimu* when  
 you arrive, call me

**kinyiiria** force (v)  
*ugwe ga ugunkinyiiria* you are  
 forcing me

**kiondo** bag (n)  
*tega kiondo* look at the bag

**kiongo** mind (n)  
*kiongo kiawe* her mind

**kiongo** head (n)  
*kiongo gikinene* your big head

**kiongone** heading (n)  
*kiongone kia iuku* book headings

kioni mirror (n)

*kioni gikinene* big mirror

kira quiet (adj)

*kira kii* be quiet

kiragutia butterfly (n)

*kiragutia gikithongi* a butterfly is beautiful

kiratasi paper (n)

*kiratasi kia narua* today's paper

kiratu shoe (n)

footwear that covers all of the foot  
*ikira iratu biaku* wear your shoes

kireru beard (n)

*kireru gikinene* long beard

kirima hill (n)

*kirima iguru* hill top

kirima mountain (n)

*kirima iguru* mountain peak

kirindi crowd (n)

*kirindi kiri na gituma* noisy crowd

kiroria prophet (n)

*kiroria wama* powerful prophet

kithao inactive (n)

*ni kithao* he is inactive

kitheti basket (n)

*Kamata kitheti* carry a basket

kithomo reading (n)

*cookera kithomo* repeat the reading

kithomo education (n)

*ugima bwa mwiri na kithomo* health and education

kiu stomach (n)

*kiu gikinene* big stomach

kiu abdomen (n)

*Kiu gia kuru* abdomen of a dog

kiugu coop (n)

*kiugu kia nguku* hen coop

kiumia service (n)

*kiumia gia gucokia nkaatho* thanksgiving service

Kiumia Sunday (n)

*Kwasi na Akosua nĩ ciana cia Kiumia* Kwasi and Akosua are Sunday children

kiura frog (n)

*kiura kiendete ruuji* a frog likes water

kiuria question (n)

*ndina kiuria* I have a question

kobithia loan (v)

*nkobithia mbeca* loan me money

kochi coach (n)

*kochi ya timu ya mubira jwa maguru* a football team coach

kokoa cocoa (n)

*muti jwa kokoa* cocoa tree

kona corners (n)

*kona cionthe cia nthiguru* all corners of the world

korora cough (v)

*korora nainya* to cough profusely

koti court (n)

*Mbitite kotini* I am going to court

kuandanira falsification (n)

*kwaria urongo na kuandanira* lies and falsifications

kuaririria preface (n)

*kuaririria iuku* book preface

**kuetheria** pretend (v)

*ni ukuetheria* you are pretending

**kugaa** division (n)

*ijiri kugaira imwe ni ijiri ; guku  
ni kugaa 2/1 = 2; this is division*

**kūgegania** amazing (adj)

*Rūgano rwa kūgegania* amazing  
story

**kugegania** amusing (adj)

*rugono rwa kugegania* amusing  
story

**kugia** gain (v)

*kethira ndi mwoyo, ni ninkugia  
gintu kionthe* if I have life, I have  
gained everything

**kugia matunda** bear fruit (v)

*muti jukugia matunda* the tree  
has borne fruit

**kugia mpio** get wet (v)

*guntu gukugia mpio* the place has  
gotten wet

**kugiana** friction (n)

*kugiana kurejira gatigati geetu*  
friction came between us

**kugitirwa igamba** judgement  
(n)

*Kugitirwa igamba ririku* which  
judgement?

**kugurana** marriage (n)

*kugurana gukuega* good marriage

**kuguru** leg (n)

*kuguru kuimbite* swollen leg

**kugwatagwata** caress (v)

*njara yawe ikugwatagwata* her  
hand caresses it

**kugwirirua** appreciate (v)

*ugwe utikugwirirua buu* you do  
not appreciate this

**kuigirua kiao** pitiable (adj)

*Kana gaka ni ga kuigirua kiao*  
pitiable child

**kuigithia bu bubuthuku** dis-  
gusting (adj)

*guntu kuu ni gu kuigithia bu  
bubuthuku* the place is disgusting

**kuigua bubui** be ill (v)

*ni nkuigua bubui* I am ill

**kuigua bui** be guilty of (v)

*ni tukuigua bui* we are guilty

**kuigua nthoni** be shy (v)

*ni nkuigua nthoni* I am shy

**kuina** dance (v)

*kuina na gikeno* to dance with joy

**kuinyiirua** oppression (n)

*Kuinyiirua!!* such oppression!

**kuithikira** grief (n)

*kuithikira ni gukumburaga* grief  
is killing me

**kuma** carve (v)

*kuma rubau* carve the wood

**kumemorise** memorization (n)

*kumemorise ni gukuthongi* some  
memorization is good

**kumenyeka** become famous (v)

*Nkrumah ni akumenyeka*  
Nkrumah has become famous

**kumenyerera** protection (n)

*mpa umenyererer* give me protec-  
tion

- kumithia** praise (v)  
*gukumithia* Ngai to praise God  
**kumuntwa cindano** injection (n)  
*kumuntwa cindano kuri murimo*  
 an injection is painful  
**kunga** crow (v)  
*nchamba ni igukunga* a cockerel  
 is crowing  
**kungwata** have a hold on (v)  
*Mpara ikungwata* hunger has a  
 hold on me (I am hungry)  
**kung'anana** equal (adj)  
*twinthe gatung'anene* we are  
 equal  
**kunika** cover (v)  
*kunika na nguo; ikira nguo* cover  
 with cloth; dress in cloth  
**kunikara** overflow (v)  
*muuro jukunikara* the lake has  
 overflowed  
**kunja** fold (v)  
*kunja nguo ya ngina* to fold  
 mother's cloth  
**kunja** bend (v)  
*kunja aniini* bend it a bit  
**kunthe** everywhere (p)  
*kunthe kuri na mwanki* every-  
 where is hot  
**kunya** pinch (v)  
*tiga gunkunya* stop pinching me  
**kunyanira** betray (v)  
*ugankunyanira* do not betray me  
**kunyua** drink (v)  
*kunyua ruuji* to drink water  
**kura** pluck (v)  
*kura itunda* pluck fruit  
**kurakaria** annoying (adj)  
*Nĩ wa kurakaria hari* we it is an-  
 noying to you  
**kuriganirua** forgetfulness (n)  
*kuriganirua kwawe* her forgetful-  
 ness  
**kurigarania** amazing (adj)  
*rugono rwa kurigarania* amazing  
 story  
**kurio** early (adv)  
*wije kurio* come early  
**kurita** deduct (v)  
*kurita imwe kuma kiri ijiri*  
 deduct one from two  
**kuriuka** resurrection (n)  
*kuriuka gwa Kiristu* the resurrec-  
 tion of Christ  
**kuroria** prophesy (v)  
*kuroria kuendelea* prophesy pros-  
 perity  
**kuru** dog (n)  
*kuru nikugamba* a dog barks  
**kurua** battle (v)  
*twitite kurua nabo* we are going to  
 battle them  
**kuruka** pass (v)  
*kethira ugakuruka undingire*  
*thimu* if you are passing, call me  
**kuthaaka** play (v)  
*gatukuthaaka* we are playing  
**kuthera** holy (adj)  
*iuku riritheru* holy book  
**kuthinika** suffering (n)  
*uguaa na kuthinika* fear with suf-

*fering*

**kuthira miruki** deflate (v)  
*tairi yaku ikuthira miruki* your  
 tyre is deflating

**kuthiria annul** (v)  
*kuthiria muranu annul* a mar-  
 riage

**kuthuranira** preparation (n)  
*thuranira* make preparation

**kuthuria** annoying (adj)  
*ni i kuthuria* it is annoying to you

**kuuga mbuu** wailing (n)  
*kurira na kuuga mbuu* crying  
 and wailing

**kuugia mai** fart (n)  
*mai jawe i ja kununka* her fart  
 smells badly

**kuugithia mainda** multiplica-  
 tion (n)  
*ijiri kuugithia mainda na*  
*imwe ni ijiri; guku ni ku-*  
*ugithia mainda*  $2 \times 1 = 2$ ; this is  
 multiplication

**kuuma** from (prep)  
*ita kuuma aja* go from here

**kuuma tharike** bleeding (n)  
*rigiria kuuma tharike* stop the  
 bleeding

**kuumia** dry (v)  
*kuumia nguo* to dry clothes

**kuumiria** patience (n)  
*wendo na kuumiria* love and pa-  
 tience

**kuumiriria** encouragement (n)  
*kuumiriria na gukena* encour-

*agement and joy*

**kuumiriria** comfort (n)  
*mpa kuumiriria* give me comfort  
**kuura** peel off (v)

*kuura yumba* peel off the plaster  
**kuura** disappear (v)  
*a kuura* she has disappeared

**kuura** beat (v)  
*kuura muntu* beat someone

**kwaria urongo** perjury (n)  
*kwaria urongo kotini* perjury in  
 court

**kwenda** need (v)  
*kwenda mucii* to need family

**kwenda** desire (v)  
*inkwenda irigu* I desire a banana

**kwendeka** desirable (adj)  
*ni i kwendeka* it is desirable

**kwendia** hawk (v)  
*kwendia into* hawk things

**kwerenca** plead with ... (v)  
*ndakwerenca; itu* i plead with  
 you; please

**kwainaina kwa nthiguru** earth-  
 quake (n)  
*nthiguru i kwainaina* it is an earth-  
 quake

**kwinyiha** humility (n)  
*inyihe* be humble

**kwithirwa** being (n)  
*kwithirwa na U muntu* human  
 being

**kwombika** by any chance (adv)  
*kwombika withirwa ukumwona*  
 have you seen her by any chance?

## L, l

**leki** lake (n)

*leki ikunikara* the lake has overflowed

**logo** logo (n)

*logo ya kanisa* church logo

**lori** lorry (n)

*kirungamo kia lori* lorry stop

## M, m

**macindano** competition (n)

*macindano ja mubira* jwa

*maguru* football competition

**macokanĩrio** argument (n)

*Macokanĩrio maingĩ* many arguments

**maguka ma tene** ancestor (n)

*maguka makwa ma tene* my ancestors

**maguru ja ngurwe** pigfeet (n)

*cubu ya maguru ja ngurwe* pigfeet soup

**maguta ja naathi** palm kernel oil (n)

*maguta ja naathi ni jameega ja nciuri* palm kernel oil is good for hair

**maguta ja ngirisi** grease (n)

*maguta ja ngirisi jari karaine* grease in a pan

**maiga** stone (n)

*maiga na cimiti* stones and cement

**maili** mile (n)

*maili ikumi* ten miles

**maindi** buttocks (n)

*maindi ja manene* big buttocks

**makara** charcoal (n)

*nkunia ya makara* sack of charcoal

**makathi** scissors (n)

*mpa makathi* give me the scissors

**makosa** mistake (n)

*muntu wonthe omba kuthithia*

*makosa* everyone makes mistakes

**makunu** mushroom (n)

*subu ya makunu* mushroom soup

**mamba** alligator (n)

*mamba nĩrĩ mũting'oe* an alligator has a tail

**mami** mother (n)

*mwana wa mami ni wetu* my mother's child is my sibling

**mamira** phlegm (n)

*angura mamira* wipe the phlegm

**mamira** lean on (v)

*mamira* lean on me

**mandamu** madam (n)

*mandamu Mary* madam Mary

**manĩrĩra** announcement (n)

*Thoma manĩrĩra* read the announcement

**manyoya ja naathi** palmnut wool (n)

*manyoya ja naathi jaijaga bwega* mono palmnut wool burns well

**marakara** anger (n)

*Horeria marakara maku* calm  
your anger

**marii** compensation (n)

*ukwona marii jaku?* have you re-  
ceived your compensation?

**maromba** prayer (n)

*maromba i jamega* prayer is good

**mashindano** competition (n)

*mashindano ja mubira jwa*  
*maguru* football competition

**mashini** machine (n)

*mashini injeru* new machine

**Masindano ja micetho**

Olympics (n)

*Masindano ja micetho* Olympics  
competition

**mataaro** advice (n)

*Mübia niari mataaro* a priest has  
advice

**mataro** advice (n)

*mutumiria ari na mataro* a priest  
has advice

**mateta** argument (n)

*mateta jamaingi* many arguments

**mathanduku** drawers (n)

*wikirite mathanduku* are you  
wearing drawers?

**mathangu ja kokoyamu** co-  
coyam leaves (n)

*gitwero kia mathangu ja kokoy-  
amu* cocoyam leaves stew

**mathiko** funeral (n)

*mbitiite mathiko* I am going to a

funeral

**mati** junk (n)

*kuri na mati nyomba iu* there is  
junk in the room

**matuka** flee (v)

*aramatuka* he fled

**mbaki** tobacco (n)

*nyua mbaki* smoke tobacco

**mbaluni** balloon (n)

*mbaluni ijiri* two balloons

**mbarathi** horse (n)

*mbarathi injeru* white horse

**mbea** mouse (n)

*mbea ineene* a big mouse

**mbea** mouse (n)

*mbea iinene* a big mouse

**mbeca** money (n)

*mbeca itethagia* money helps

**mbere** in front (prep)

*ita mbere* go in front

**mbere** before (prep)

*ria mbere ya umama* eat before  
(you) sleep

**mbere ya antu** public (n)

*u tiumba kuuga* ~~mbere~~ *mbere ya*  
*antu* you don't say 'vagina' in pub-  
lic

**mbia** rat (n)

*mbia inene* a big rat

**mbica** photograph (n)

*ringa mbica* take a photograph

**mbica** picture (n)

*mbica inthongi* beautiful picture

**mbluu** blue (adj)

*nguo ya rangi ya mbluu* blue  
dress

- mbogisi** box (n)  
*mbogisi A ni inene kiri mbogisi B*  
 box A is bigger than box B
- mbui** feather (n)  
*mbui cia nyoni* bird's feathers
- mbuibui** spider (n)  
*nyomba ya mbuibui* spider's web
- mburi** goat (n)  
*mburi na ngundu* a goat and a sheep
- meethene** living room (n)  
*tukarite nthi meethene* we are sitting in the living room
- meethene** living room (n)  
*tukarite nthii meethene* we are sitting in the living room
- meetho** lens (n)  
*meetho ja kamera* lens of a camera
- menya** know (v)  
*ninkumumenya* I know her
- menyera** protect (v)  
*menyera bautwi* protect us
- menyithia** alert (v)  
*ku ba menyithia* alert them
- miromo** lips (n)  
*miromo imitune* red lips
- mirongo inna** duration (n)  
*igita ria mathaa mirongo inna*  
 forty-hour duration
- mirugu** god (n)  
*mirungu ya kwithondekera* dependable god
- miruki** breath (n)  
*kuucia miruki; nogoka* collect your breath; rest
- mita** meter (n)  
*mita ikumi ten meters*
- mita** metre (n)  
 length metric; meter (American English) *mita ikumi ten metres*
- mitugo** manner (n)  
*mitugo yawe ni imithongi* his manner is amusing
- mitugo** habit (n)  
*mitugo imithuku* bad habit
- mitugo** character (n)  
*mitugo yawe* her character
- mkulima** farmer (n)  
*ni mkulima* she is a farmer
- mono** very much (adv)  
*ibwega mono* thank you very much
- mono** too much (adv)  
*arumanaga mono* he insults too much
- mpaka** cat (n)  
*mpaka iri na muthirinya* a cat has a tail
- mpaka** cat (n)  
*mpaka iri na munyiritha* a cat has a tail
- mpakuri** collander (n)  
*tumira mpakuri kunyaria ruuji*  
*mucherene* use the collander to drain the rice
- mpara** hunger (n)  
*mpara na nyonta* hunger and thirst
- mpempe** corn (n)  
*mpempe na ncugu karanga* corn and groundnuts

- mpio** cold (adj)  
*ruuji ruri na mpio* cold water
- mpio** cold temperature (n)  
*utuku buri na mpio* night is cold
- muaandiki** journalist (n)  
*turi aandiki* we are journalists
- Mūafrika** African (n)  
 someone from Africa **Ndi**  
*Mūafrika* I am an African
- muajie** patient (n)  
*ajie bararaga aja* the patients  
 sleep here
- mubira** ball (n)  
*thaka mubira* play ball
- mubira** pipe (n)  
*ruuji rwa mubira* pipe water
- mucemano** meeting (n)  
*kansa mucemano* cancel the  
 meeting
- mucetho** game (n)  
*thaka mucetho* play a game
- muchere** rice (n)  
*muchere na mboco* rice and beans
- mucibi** film (n)  
*thaka mucibi* cast of a film
- mucore** friend (n)  
*mucore wakwa* my friend
- mucore umwega** good friend  
 (n)  
*turi acore babega sana* we are  
 very good friends
- mucoriru** bud (v)  
*mpempe ni ikuma mucoriru* the  
 maize is budding
- mucumari** nail (n)  
*mucumari na kimuti* plank and  
 nail
- Mūgaa** January (n)  
*January has 31 days*
- mugambi** judge (n)  
*agambi mugwanja* seven judges
- mugambo** language (n)  
*migambo i mingi* many languages
- mugate** bread (n)  
*mugate jumworo* soft bread
- mugeka** mat (n)  
*tamburukia mugeka* spread out a  
 mat
- mugeka** mat (n)  
*tandika mugeka* spread out a mat
- mugeni** guest ()  
*uni ndi mugeni* I am a guest
- mugeni** guest (n)  
*ndi mugeni* I am a guest
- Mūgetho** February (n)  
*February has 28 or 29 days*
- mūgima** adult (n)  
*nĩ mūndũ mūgima* he is an adult
- Mūgiranjara** August (n)  
*August has 31 days*
- mugunye** shade (n)  
*nkariite mugunyene* I am sitting  
 under the shade
- mugurani** groom (n)  
*mucore wa mugurani* groom's  
 friends
- muguuta jwa ngombe** cowhide  
 (n)

- waache na muguuta jwa ngombe**  
*waache and cowhide*
- mugwatia wa ikuyu** fisherman  
 (n)  
*ni mugwatia wa ikuyu he is a fisherman*
- mugwongo** ivory (n)  
*mukathi jwa mugwongo* ivory necklace
- muiki** bride (n)  
*mukuru wa muiki; muikithania* bride's husband; groom
- muikithania** groom (n)  
*acore ba muikithania* groom's friends
- mūini** musician (n)  
*the musicians*
- mukarire** disposition (n)  
*mukarire jwa muntu* a person's disposition
- mukathi** gaudy (adj)  
*mukathi jukwonekana* gaudy necklace
- mukathi** necklace (n)  
*Mukathi jwa mugwongo* ivory necklace
- mukawa** hotel (n)  
*araraga mukawa ene* she sleeps at a hotel
- mukiristu** Christian (n)  
*mukiristu na muisilamu* a Christian and a Muslim
- mukobo** loan (n)  
*ikwenda mukobo* I need a loan
- mukuru** husband (n)  
*impendete mukuru wakwa* I love my husband
- mukuru** elder (adj)  
*mwana wetu uria mukuru* my elder sibling
- mukuru umukuru** old man (n)  
*Ni mukuru umukuru* he is an old man
- mukwacii** cassava (n)  
*marigu na mukwacii* plantain and cassava
- mulango** door (n)  
*inga mulango* close the door
- mumbi** creator (n)  
*ngai mumbi* creator god
- numero** throat (n)  
*theria numero* clear your throat
- munda** land (n)  
*gura munda* buy land
- mundu** dark (adj)  
*utuku buri na mundu* dark night
- mundu** darkness (n)  
*utuku buretaga mundu* night brings darkness
- munene** almighty (adj)  
*ngai munene* almighty god
- munene** king (n)  
*ni munene* he is a king
- munene wa nthiguru** president (n)  
*munene wa nthiguru agukinya* the president has arrived
- munta** inject (v)  
*munta* inject me
- munthu** enemy (n)  
*anthu bakanoga* enemies will tire

- muntu** person (n)  
*muntu wa bata* important person
- muntu** master (n)  
*Muntu Kofi* Master Kofi
- muntu** mugima adult (n)  
*ni muntu mugima* he is an adult
- muntu** muka woman (n)  
*muntu muka umuthongi* a pretty woman
- muntu** murume gentleman (n)  
*muntu murume u munene* senior gentleman
- muntu** utiumii dimwit (adj)  
*kiaa! muntu utiumii!* Fool! Dimwit!
- muntu** wa gukamata mirigo porter (n)  
*muntu wa gukamata mirigo aka-mataga kibogisi* the porter carries a box
- muntu** wa gutethia antu philanthropist (n)  
*we ni muntu wa gutethia antu* she is a philanthropist
- muntu** wa kumama na aka ouu philanderer (n)  
*uciethetie muntu wa kumama na aka ouu* you have made yourself a philanderer
- muntu** wetu relative (n)  
*ni muntu wetu* he is a relative
- munyanya** concubine (n)  
*yaa ni munyanya wakwa* Yaa is my concubine
- Muoria Nyoni** July (n)  
*July* has 31 days
- muragani** murderer (n)  
*ni muragani* he is a murderer
- murashi jwa kuthambia maigo** toothbrush (n)  
*murashi jwa kuthambia maigo na ndawa* toothbrush and tooth-paste
- murigitathi** nurse (n)  
*ni murigitathi* she is a nurse
- murimo** sickness (n)  
*urina murimo juriku* what sickness have you?
- murimo** disease (n)  
*oria murimo* heal disease
- muringiti** blanket (n)  
*muringiti juri na ruuji* wet blanket
- murio** sweet (adj)  
*chai iri na murio* the tea is sweet
- muriti wa ngugi** maid (n)  
*ni muriti wa ngugi* she is a maid
- muromo** mouth (n)  
*muromo jwakwa* my mouth
- murongo** liar (n)  
*arongo bathatu* three liars
- murugi** chieftain (n)  
*ni murugi* she is a chieftain
- muruki** smell (n)  
*ni nkuigua muruki* I sense a smell
- muruki** fragrance (n)  
*muruki juu ni jwa batta* the fragrance of sheabutter

**murururu** lizard (n)  
*murururu jurijaga nyaki* a lizard  
 eats grass

**musiki** music (n)  
*ina musiki* play music

**musingi** foundation (n)  
*musingi jwa nyomba* foundation  
 of the house

**mutanocia** brother (n)  
*mutanocia wakwa* my only  
 brother

**Mūthaatū** April (n)  
*April* has 30 days

**muthao** lazy (adj)  
*muntu muthao* lazy man

**Muthenya jwa ina** Thursday (n)  
*twana twa Muthenya jwa ina*  
 Thursday children

**Muthenya jwa iri** Tuesday (n)  
*Twana twa muthenya jwa iri*  
 Tuesday children

**Muthenya jwa ithatu** Wednesday (n)  
*twana twa Muthenya jwa ithatu*  
 Wednesday children

**Muthenya jwa kiumia** Sunday (n)  
*Kimathi na Nkirote baciariirwe*  
*Muthenya jwa kiumia* Kwasi and  
 Akosua are Sunday children

**Muthenya jwa mwambirio jwa kiumia** Monday (n)  
*twana twa Muthenya jwa mwambirio jwa kiumia* Monday  
 children

**muthetu** brown (adj)  
*nyoni ya rangi ya muthetu* brown  
 bird

**muthetu** ash (n)  
*makara na muthetu* charcoal and  
 ashes

**muthetu jwa yumba** clay (n)  
*Glasi ya muthetu jwa yumba* clay  
 vase

**muthia** end (n)  
*muthia jugukinya* the end has  
 come

**muthikiri** listener (n)  
*mugen i athikiri* hello listeners

**muthirinya** tail (n)  
*mpaka iri na muthirinya* a cat  
 has a tail

**muthirinya** penis (n)  
*utiumba kuuga 'muthirinya'*  
*mbere ya antu* you don't say  
 'penis' in public

**muti jwa kiegeri** broomstick (n)  
*miti ikumi ya biegeri* ten broom-  
 sticks

**muti jwa kuringa gitaru** paddle (n)  
*gitaru na muti jwa kuringa gi-  
 taru* canoe and paddle

**mutongerira** leader (n)  
*uju niwe mutongerira wetu* this is  
 our leader

**mutumiiria** priest (n)  
*mutumiiria ari na mataro* a  
 priest has advice

**mutumiria** bishop (n)  
*ni mutumiria* she is a bishop

**mutumwa** messenger (n)  
*atumwa ibakinyire* the messengers arrived

**mutungi** bucket (n)  
*mutungi juturiki* the bucket leaks

**mutungi** barrel (n)  
*ujuria mutungi* fill up the barrel  
**mutungi** pail (n)  
*mutungi na thabuni* pail and soap

**mutungi** jar (n)  
*mitungi mugwanja* seven jars  
**muturiru** flute (n)  
*rwimbo rwa muturiru* flute music

**mutuu** flour (n)  
*mutuu jwa mpempe* corn flour  
**mutwe** headache (n)  
*mutheega jwa mutwe* headache medicine

**mutwe** headache (n)  
*ndwa ya mutwe* headache medicine

**muubira** elastic (adj)  
*murigi jwa muubira* elastic string

**muuko** pocket (n)  
*gutikio kiri ndene ya muuko*  
*jwakwa* nothing inside my pocket

**muuma** oath (n)  
*muuma jungwa* great oath

**muunda** farm (n)  
*munda jwa cocoua* cocoa farm

**muundu kugwaa** nightfall (n)  
*muthenya na muundu kugwaa* daybreak and nightfall

**muuragani** murderer (n)  
*ni muuragani* he is a murderer  
**muuri** pestle (n)

*muuri na ntiri* pestle and mortar

**mwaandiki** writer (n)  
*uni ndi mwaandiki* I am a writer

**mwaburi** umbrella (n)  
*kara nthii rungu rwa mwaburi* sit under the umbrella

**Mwafrica** African (n)  
*Uuni ni Mwafrica* I am an African

**mwago** luxury (n)  
*ndiona mwago uturone bwaku* I see luxury in your future

**mwaka** year (n)  
*mwaka jumweru jugukinya* a new year has come

**mwalimu** teacher (n)  
*uni ndi mwalimu* I am a teacher

**mwamba** thief (n)  
*ti mwamba* he is not a thief

**mwana** toddler (n)  
*mwana, inaa witite* toddler, where are you going?

**mwana** child (n)  
*mwana wa mami ni muntu wetu* my mother's child is my sibling

**mwana** baby (n)  
*ndina mwana* I have a baby

**mwananchi** citizen (n)  
*Uni ni mwananchi* I am a citizen

**mwanki** hot (adj)

*ruuji ruri na mwanki* hot water

**mwanki** fire (n)

*gwatia mwanki* light the fire

**mwari** damsel (n)

*mwari uju nathongi* this damsel is pretty

**mwari** miss (n)

*mwari na kaari kaniini* lady and young lady

**mwari** girl (n)

*mwari umuraaja* tall girl

**mwario ng'ina** sister (n)

*mwario ng'ina wakwa wenka* my only sister

**mwekuru** wife (n)

*mwekuru wakwa na twana twakwa* my wife and my children

**mwekuru** missus (n)

*mwekuru wa Clinton* Missus Clinton

**mwekuru umukuru** old lady (n)

*mwekuru umukuru wakwa* my old lady

**mwendwa wakwa** beloved (n)

*mwendwa wakwa agumpairia* my beloved has tricked me

**mweri** month (n)

*mweri jumwe* one month

**mweri** moon (n)

*mweri na jota* moon and stars

**Mweri jwa ikumi** October (n)

*Mweri jwa ikumi jwithagirwa na ntuku mirongo ithatu na imwe* October has 31 days

**Mweri jwa ikumi na jumwe** November (n)

*Mweri jwa ikumi na jumwe jwithagirwa na ntuku mirongo ithatu* November has 30 days

**Mweri jwa Ina** April (n)

*Mweri jwa Ina jwithagirwa na ntuku mirongo ithatu* April has 30 days

**Mweri jwa inana** August (n)

*Mweri jwa inana jwithagirwa na ntuku mirongo ithatu na imwe* August has 31 days

**Mweri jwa iri** February (n)

*Mweri jwa iri jwithagitwa na ntuku mirongo iri na inana kana mirongo iri na kenda* February has 28 or 29 days

**Mweri jwa itantatu** June (n)

*Mweri jwa itantatu jwithagirwa na ntuku mirongo ithatu* June has 30 days

**Mweri jwa kenda** September (n)

*Mweri jwa kenda jwithagirwa na ntuku mirongo ithatu* September has 30 days

**Mweri jwa mugwanja** July (n)

*Mweri jwa mugwanja juithagirwa na ntuku mirongo ithatu na imwe* July has 31 days

**Mweri jwa mwambirio** January (n)

*Mweri jwa mwambirio juithagirwa na ntuku mirongo ithatu na imwe* January has 31 days

**mwiri** flesh (n)  
*mwiri na tharike* flesh and blood  
**mwitu** bush (n)  
*ita mwitune* go into the bush  
**mwoyo** living (adj)  
*Ngai uri mwoyo* living god

## N, n

**na** and (conj)  
*Kofi na Ama* Kofi and Ama  
**na** and (conj)  
*Kofi na Ama* Kofi and Ama  
**nanasi** pineapple (n)  
*ruuji rwa nanasi* pineapple juice  
**nanasi** pineapple (n)  
*juici ya nanasi* pineapple juice  
**narua** today (adv)  
*agakinya narua* she arrives today

**nasi** nurse (n)  
*ni nasi* she is a nurse  
**nau mbere** future (n)  
*ndiona maisha ja raha nau*  
*mbere* I see luxury in your future  
**nceege** porcupine (n)  
*irinya ria nceege* porcupine hole  
**nceera** jail (n)  
*ita nceera* go to jail  
**nceera** prison (n)  
*ita nceera* go to prison  
**nchana** alligator (n)  
*nchana iri na muthirinya* an alligator has a tail  
**nchiuri** hair (n)  
*nchiuri cia kibara* chest hair

**ncini** pepper (n)  
*ncini ni ikuithia* the pepper burns  
**nciuri cia riitho** eyebrow (n)  
*riitho na nciuri cia riitho* eye and eyebrow  
**ncoobi** liquor (n)  
*ikira ncoobi niini* pour a little liquor  
**ncugu** groundnut (n)  
*mpeme na ncugu* corn and groundnuts  
**ncugu** groundnut (n)  
*mpempe na ncugu* corn and groundnuts  
**ncuma** metal (n)  
*kobia ya ncuma* hat of metal  
**nda** abdomen (n)  
*Nda ya ngui* abdomen of a dog  
**ndagika** minute (n)  
*ndagika ithano* five minutes  
**ndagitari** doctor (n)  
*ni ndagitari* she is a doctor  
**ndawa** medicine (n)  
*ndawa iri na ng'ana* bitter medicine  
**ndawa ya kuthambia** maigo toothpaste (n)  
*murashi na ndawa ya kuthambia* maigo toothbrush and toothpaste  
**ndege** aeroplane (n)  
*ndege igiri* two aeroplanes  
**ndege** aeroplane (n)  
*ndege ijiri* two aeroplanes

**ndekera** forgive (v)

*ndekera maitia jakwa forgive me  
my wrong*

**ndene** inside (adv)

*ita'ndene go inside*

**ndene** in (prep)

*iri ndene ya nyomba it is in the  
house*

**ndereba** driver (n)

*ndereba aguikira breki the driver  
has braked*

**ndimu** lime (n)

*juici ya ndimu lime juice*

**ndirisha** window (n)

*rugura ndirisha open the win-  
dows*

**ndito** heavy (adj)

*ni i ndito it is heavy*

**ndomba** be able to (v)

*ndomba kuthuta muti I am able to  
climb a tree*

**ndua** battle (n)

*twitite kiri ndua we are going to  
battle*

**ndua** fight (v)

*Ali na Frayier ni bari na ndua Ali  
and Frazier fought*

**nduume** mist (n)

*nduume ya ruukiri morning mist*

**ndwaa** battle (n)

*twitite ndwaaene we are going to  
battle*

**nene** great (adj)

*ritwa ri ri nene a great name*

**nene** big (adj)

*Adae u mu-nene Big Adae*

**ng'ond** sheep (n)

*nyama ya ng'ond sheep meat (i.e.  
mutton)*

**ng'ana** bitter (adj)

*ndawa iri na ng'ana bitter  
medicine*

**ngaloni** gallon (n)

*ngaloni ya ruuji a gallon of water*

**nganira** befit (v)

*ni bugukunganira it befits you*

**ngara** bruise (v)

*waringa rwagi na muthuro wan-  
gara kirona giaku you swat the  
fly in anger and you bruise your  
wound*

**ngaranji** garage (n)

*ngaranji ya ngari car garage*

**ngari** car (n)

*itithia ngari drive a car*

**ngari** car (n)

*ngari twiw kaar*

**ngatunyi** lion (n)

*ngatunyi irijaga nyama a lion  
eats flesh*

**ngecere** bow-legged (adj)

*muntu murume uri na ngecere  
bow-legged man*

**ngii** fly (n)

*ngii niburukaga a fly flies*

**ngii** blowfly (n)

*ngii ni ithuragia mono blowflies  
are annoying*

**ngii** housefly (n)  
*ngii yomba gukamata mirimo a*  
 housefly can carry disease  
**ngoga** miserly (adj)  
*ari na ngoga* he is miserly  
**ngombe** cow (n)  
*nyama yangombe* cow meat; beef  
**ngong ngong** gong gong (n)  
*thaka ngong ngong* play the gong  
 gong  
**ngorogoro** storm (n)  
*ngorogoro na nkwa* storm with  
 thunder  
**nguo** attire (n)  
*nguo yaku ni inthongi mono* your  
 attire is beautiful  
**nguo** clothes (n)  
*gura nguo* buy clothes  
**ngurwe** pig (n)  
*ngurwe imwe ni cia pinki* some  
 pigs are pink  
**ngutu** gossip (n)  
*ngutu ti injega* gossip is not good  
**ngutu** gossip (n)  
*ngutu ti inthongi* gossip is not  
 good  
**ngwataniro** association (n)  
*ija ngwatanirone ya arume ya*  
*gutirimana* come to the men's as-  
 sociation meeting  
**niĩ** I (p)  
*niĩndiaga* I eat  
**niini** little (n)  
*ikira ncoobi niini* pour a little  
 liquor

**niki** why (adv)  
*niki uu?* why so?  
**ningwa** myself (p)  
*ni nciendete ningwa* I love myself  
**niuntu** because (conj)  
*niuntu ni nkwendete* because I  
 like you  
**niuntu buu** in that case (adv)  
*niuntu buu ija* in that case come  
**njaa** home (n)  
*njaa yenu* your home  
**njara** arm (n)  
*ukiria njara yaku* lift up your arm  
**njara** hand (n)  
*ukiria njara yaku* lift up your  
 hand  
**njira** way (n)  
*njira* the way  
**njogu** elephant (n)  
*njogu ni inene* an elephant is very  
 big  
**njointi** joint (n)  
*kuucia jointi ciaku* stretch your  
 joints  
**njoka** snake (n)  
*njoka iti maguru* a snake has no  
 legs  
**Njuma** Saturday (n)  
 day of the week *Ciana cia Njuma*  
 Saturday children  
**njuno** fable (n)  
*atiitikagia njuno* one does not be-  
 lieve fables

**nkaatho** praise (n)

*niabaterie nkaatho she deserves praise*

**nkai** groin (n)

*nkai cia muntu-murume groin of a man*

**nkai** penis (n)

*u tiumba kuuga "nkai" mbere ya kirindi you don't say 'penis' in public*

**nkamira** camel (n)

*nkamira ithanthatu six camels*

**nkara** egg (n)

*nkara ya nguku chicken egg*

**nkathi** ladder (n)

*nkathi indaaja long ladder*

**nkiaa** indigent (n)

*nkiaa iti gantu an indigent has nothing*

**nkingo** neck (n)

*Tai ikaraga nkingo the tie hangs on his neck*

**nkingo** neck (n)

*tai icuraga nkingo the tie hangs on his neck*

**nkobia** hat (n)

*Ni ekirite nkobia he is wearing a hat*

**nkoro** soul (n)

*nkoro yakwa ni iguukiiria my soul exults*

**nkoro** heart (n)

*nkoro injega good heart*

**nkuaa** armpit (n)

*nkuaa ikununka smelly armpit*

**nkunia** sack (n)

*guti gintu kiri ndene ya nkunia yakwa nothing inside my sack*

**nkunkwa** orange (n)

*makunkwa jathatu three oranges*

**nkuru** tortoise (n)

*nkuru itaga kaora a tortoise walks slowly*

**nkuruki** than (conj)

*ni umuraja nkuruki yakwa he is taller than me*

**nkuu** firewood (n)

*jukia nkuu pickup firewood*

**ntaka** mud (n)

*Thambia ntaka wash the mud*

**ntanta** drop (n)

*nguku inyunyaga ruuji ntanta na ntanta drop by drop a chicken drinks water*

**ntariki** date (v)

*ugampa ntariki will you date me?*

**ntariki** date (n)

*Narua i ntariki ingana? which date is today?*

**nteremente** toffee (n)

*ria nteremente lick a toffee*

**nthao** disgrace (n)

*aibu na nthao shame and disgrace*

**nthata** barren (adj)

*muntu-muka nthata barren woman*

**nthiguru** nation (n)

*nthiguru yako your nation*

**nthiguru** world (n)  
*twana twa nthiguru* children of the world  
**nthiguru** country (n)  
*nthiguru yaku* your country  
**nthiguru** floor (n)  
*nthiguru on the floor*  
**nthii** down (adv)  
*ita nthii* go down  
**nthii** earth (n)  
*antu ba nthii* people of the earth  
**nthingiri** ant (n)  
*nthingiri ngiri* thousands of ants  
**nthongi** nice (adj)  
*mithithie itwike inthongi* make it nice  
**nthoroko** bean (n)  
*mucere na nthoroko* rice and beans  
**nthua** louse (n)  
*nthua cia nguku* chicken lice  
**ntigwa** widowed (adj)  
*ntumurume ntigwa* widowed man  
**ntina** not have (v)  
*ntina mbeca indi ndina utonga* I don't have money but I have property  
**ntiri** mortar (n)  
*muti na ntiri* pestle and mortar  
**ntuku** day (n)  
*ntuku igukinya* the day has arrived  
**ntuku cionthe** daily (adv)  
*ejaga aja ntuku cionthe* he comes here daily

**ntuku inyanya** eight days (n)  
*eteera ntuku inyanya* wait eight days  
**ntuku ya guciarwa** birthday (n)  
*Narua ni ntuku ya guciarwa yakwa* today is my birthday  
**ntumurume** man (n)  
*ntumurume u muraaja* a tall man  
**ntumurume** male (n)  
*Mandela ni ntumurume* Mandela is male  
**ntumurume** man (n)  
*ntumurume u muraja* a tall man  
**ntumwa** message (n)  
*riria ntumwa yakinyire* when the message arrived  
**ntunda** fruit (n)  
*tua ntunda* pluck fruit  
**ntuntuguru** owl (n)  
*ntuntuguru ni nyoni* an owl is a bird  
**ntura** neighbourhood (n)  
*ntukaraga ntura imwe* we live in the same neighbourhood  
**ntuti** suddenly (adv)  
*yejire ntuti* it came suddenly  
**ntuti** quickly (adv)  
*ita ntuti* you walk quickly  
**ntuti** immediately (adv)  
*tigana nayo ntuti* cut off immediately  
**nusu ya kilo** gram (n)  
*nusu ikumi cia kilo* ten grams  
**nyaki** grass (n)  
*ng'ombe ithagumagia nyaki* a

cow chews grass  
**nyaki** grass (n)  
*ngombe irijaga nyaki* a cow chews grass  
**nyama** beef (n)  
*ria nyama* eat beef  
**nyama** meat (n)  
*nyama ya mburi* goat meat  
**nyama ya ngurwe** pork (n)  
*nyama ya ngurwe iri na murio*  
 pork is tasty  
**nyanya** tomato (n)  
*nyanya ijiri* two tomatoes  
**nyingi** many (adj)  
*ngari i nyingi* many vehicles  
**nyiuru** nose (n)  
*gutu na nyiuru* ear and nose  
**nyomba** house (n)  
*nyomba* the house  
**nyomba ya kuthambira** bath-room (n)  
*Ita nyomba ya kuthambira* go to the bathroom  
**nyomba ya mbunge** parliament house (n)  
*kumuthura gwita nyomba ya mbunge* elect her to go to parliament house  
**nyomba ya ngoroba** storey building (n)  
*ningwaka nyomba ya ngoroba* I am building a storey building  
**nyongu** pot (n)  
*nyongu ya cuuma* metal pot  
**nyoni** bird (n)  
*nyoni ikuburuka* a bird flies

**nyonta** thirst (n)  
*ndina nyonta* I feel thirst (I am thirsty)  
**nyonto** breast (n)  
*iria ria nyonto* breast milk  
**nyoroco** leopard (n)  
*nyoroco iri na muthirinya* a leopard has a tail  
**nyuma** behind (prep)  
*ita nyuma* go behind  
**nyuma ya nyomba** backyard (n)  
*nyuma ya nyomba ikugia iria mono* the backyard is overgrown

## O, o

**omba** maybe (adv)  
*omba kwija* maybe he will come  
**oria** extinguish (v)  
*oria rumuri* extinguish the flame  
**oria** heal (v)  
*kuoria murimo* heal disease  
**ou** as (adv)  
*ou i kari* as it is

## P, p

**pinki** pink (adj)  
*ngurwe imwe ni cia rangi ya pinki* some pigs are pink  
**pointi** full stop (n)  
*imwe pointi ithano ni nusu 1.5* is one and a half.  
**printa** printer (n)  
*printa ya mauku* book printer

**printi** print (v)  
*printi barua* print the email

## R, r

**raisi** easy (adj)  
*kigeranio kiri raisi* the exam is easy

**raisi** cheap (adj)  
*kuithirwa raisi* be cheap

**rangi** ink (n)  
*rangi ya karamu* ink in a pen  
**rangi ya mathangu** greenish (adj)

*nyomba iri na rangi ya mathangu* greenish house

**rangira** guard (v)  
*rangira nyomba* guard the house

**ria** pay (v)  
*nkaria* I will pay

**ria** eat (v)  
*ku ria bionthe* to eat everything

**riboti** report (n)  
*thithia riboti* make a report

**riganirua** forget (v)  
*nkuriganirua* I have forgotten

**riikone** kitchen (n)  
*ndi riikone* I am in the kitchen

**riitho** eye (n)  
*riitho* eye and eyebrow

**riitho** eyeball (n)  
*riitho* eye and eyeball

**riitwa** name (n)  
*riitwa riaku* my name

**riko** kitchen (n)  
*ndi rikone* I am in the kitchen

**ringa** click (v)  
*ringa aja* click here  
**ringa mbica** draw (v)  
*ringa mbica ya nyoni* draw a bird

**ringa mpii** clap (v)  
*kuringa mpii cia Yaa* to clap for Yaa

**rĩngĩ** again (adv)  
*muone rĩngĩ* see her again

**rira** cry (v)  
*rira igita rionthe* to cry each time

**ritithia** email (n)  
*ritithia baruga e rugo* print the email

**riu** then (adv)  
*riu aramama* then he slept

**riua** sun (n)  
*riua ni rikwara* the sun is shining

**romba** pray (v)  
*romba niuntu bwa antu bakwa* to pray for my enemies

**romba** beg (v)  
*kuromba gintu* beg for something

**romba** borrow (v)  
*romba mbeca* borrow money

**rota** dream (v)  
*kurota mono* to dream a lot

**rubau** plank (n)  
*rubau na musumari* plank and nail

**rubunguro** key (n)  
*murango na rubunguro* door and

- key  
**ruga** cook (v)  
*ruga mucere jumukai* cook a little rice  
**ruga** make (v)  
*ruga irio* make food  
**ruga** bake (v)  
*ruga mugate* bake bread  
**rugai** inheritance (n)  
*tetera rugai rwaku* claim your inheritance  
**rugono** blog (n)  
*rugono rwa irio* food blog  
**rugono rwa karaja** history (n)  
*thoma rugono rwa karaja* learn history  
**rugura** open (v)  
*nkurugura mwari* I open the door  
  
**ruguru** north (adj)  
*ita bwa ruguru* go north  
**Rui** blow (n)  
*muringe rui* give him a blow  
**ruko** dishevelled (adj)  
*muntu o ruko* dishevelled self  
**ruma** insult (v)  
*tiga kumuruma* stop insulting her  
  
**ruma** bite (v)  
*kuru yomba ku ruma* the dog can bite  
**ruma** insult (n)  
*irumi bibiingi* many insults  
**rumena** hatred (n)  
*rumena ruti mutheega* hatred has no cure  
  
**rungika** brake (v)  
*ndereva akurungika ngari* the driver has braked  
**rūraya** abroad (n)  
*Nĩathiaga rūraya* she goes abroad  
  
**rurigi** string (n)  
*rurigi na sindano* string and needle  
**ruuji** water (n)  
*nyua ruuji* you drink water  
**ruuju** tomorrow (adv)  
*agakinya ruuju* she will arrive tomorrow  
**ruukiri** morning (n)  
*ruukiri kiroko* early morning  
**ruukiri** early (adj)  
*ruukiri kiroko* early morning  
**ruukiri kiroko** dawn (n)  
*ruukiri kiroko thaa kumi na ijiri* 6am  
**ruuko** filthy (adj)  
*kuri na ruuko* the place is filthy  
**ruumu ya kumama** bedroom (n)  
*nyomba iri na ruumu cia kumama ijiri* the house has two bedrooms  
**ruuo** wind (n)  
*ruuo ni rikuurutana* the wind is blowing  
**rwagi** mosquito (n)  
*rwagi rukunduma* a mosquito has bitten me  
**rwanda** desert (n)  
*rwanda guti ruuji* water is scarce

in the desert  
**rwego** fence (n)  
*nyuma ya rwego* behind a fence  
**rwembeeria** gutter (n)  
*kurina ruuji kiri rwembeeria*  
 there is water in the gutter  
**rwemberiene** ledge (n)  
*mama rwemberiene* sleep on the  
 ledge  
**rwiro** race (n)  
*ugia rwiro* run a race  
**rwongo** abroad (n)  
*Nietaga rwongo* she goes abroad

## S, s

**senema** cinema (n)  
*mbitite senema* I am going to a  
 cinema  
**siasa** politics (n)  
*wendete siasa* you like politics  
**simiti** cement (n)  
*maiga na simiti* stones and cement

**sindano** needle (n)  
*rurigi na sindano* string and nee-  
 dle  
**sinema** cinema (n)  
*Mbitite kwona sinema* I am going  
 to a cinema  
**siri** password (n)  
*Garura siri* change password  
**starehe** luxury (n)  
*Ndiona starehe maishene jaku ja*  
*nau mbere* I see luxury in your fu-  
 ture

## T, t

**ta** discard (v)  
*ta mubira* discard the ball  
**taika** vomit (n)  
*mataika ja kuru* dog's vomit  
**takuna** chew (v)  
*gutakuna nchugu* to chew  
 groundnuts  
**tambarare** flat (adj)  
*metha tambarare* flat table  
**tandika** lantern (n)  
*gwatia tandika* turn on the  
 lantern  
**tanga** harass (v)  
*ni uguntanga* you are harassing  
 me  
**tanga** hassle (v)  
*kumutanga kenda aria* hassle  
 him so that he pays  
**tara** count (v)  
*tara mbeca* count money  
**tayari** ready (adv)  
*ndi tayari* I am ready  
**tega kuraja** look away (v)  
*ningutega kuraja* I look away  
**teta** quarrel (n)  
*iteta ririnene* a big quarrel  
**thaa ii** now (adv)  
*ita thaa ii* go now  
**thaa ingi** later (adv)  
*bakaria thaa ingi* they will eat  
 later  
**thaa inyanya** afternoon (n)  
*nkeja thaa inyanya* I will come in  
 the afternoon

- thaabu** gold (n)  
*miruki i mithongi na thaabu* fragrance and gold  
**thaaka** cast (n)  
*thaaka itinda* cast of a film  
**thaani** plate (n)  
*thambia thaani yaku* wash your plate  
**thamba** bath (v)  
*kuthamba o rukiri runthe* to bath each morning  
**thambia** clean (v)  
*thambia maigo jaku* clean your teeth  
**thara** grab (v)  
*thara njara yawe* grab his hand  
**tharike** blood (n)  
*ruuji na tharike* water and blood  
**tharima** bless (v)  
*ntharima* bless me  
**theruka** boil (v)  
*subu ni ikutheruka* the soup is boiling  
**thia** grind (v)  
*kuthia mpempe* to grind corn  
**thigara** cigarette (n)  
*nyua thigara* smoke a cigarette  
**thigiriri** ant (n)  
*Makiri ma thigiriri* thousands of ants  
**thiina** plague (n)  
*guti thiina aja* no plagues there  
**thiiri** peace (n)  
*ndienda thiiri* I want peace  
**thika** bury (v)  
*thika kiimba* bury a corpse
- thikiria** listen (v)  
*kuthikiria rwimbo* to listen to music  
**thingata** follow (v)  
*nthingata* follow me  
**thinka** doze (v)  
*niukuthinka* you are dozing  
**thiria** pacify (v)  
*thiria ndua* pacify the fight  
**thoko** market (n)  
*ita thoko* go to market  
**thoma** learn (v)  
*thoma mugambo* they learn a language  
**thugania** figure (v)  
*uri thugania ni bu buumo* you figure it is hard?  
**thukia** defile (v)  
*ugacithukia* do not defile yourself
- thungutha** jump (v)  
*kuthungutha ruthingo* to jump a wall  
**thura** hate (v)  
*kuthura uthao* to hate laziness  
**thuura** nominate (v)  
*thuura igita* name a time  
**thuuta** climb (v)  
*thuuta irima* to climb mountains  
**tia** honour (v)  
*tia Ngai* honour the Lord  
**tigiti** ticket (n)  
*tega tigiti yakwa* look at my ticket
- tinga** except (conj)  
*tinga Ngai* except God

**tiria** cancel (v)  
*tiria mucemania* cancel the meeting  
**tirima** bump into (v)  
*ngari igutirima gintu* the car has bumped into something  
**tirima** meet (v)  
*ntirima nja* meet me at home  
**toi** smoke (n)  
*kurita toi* belch smoke  
**tonya** enter (v)  
*tonya nyomba* enter into the room  
**tumiiria** announce (v)  
*tumiiria atiri* announce that  
**tura** pierce (v)  
*tura matu jaku* pierce your ear

**ugoro** evening (n)  
*irio bia ugoro; irio* evening meal; dinner  
**uguri** price (n)  
*uguri bwayo* its price?  
**uguriruo** revelation (n)  
*niari na uguriruo* he had a revelation  
**ugwaa** fear (n)  
*ugwaa buujirite nkoro yawe* fear has filled her heart  
**ugwati** chaotic (adj)  
*guntu kuri na ugwati* the place is chaotic  
**uhuru** liberty (n)  
*turi na uhuru* we have liberty

## U, u

**uciathi** independence (n)  
*ntuku ya uciathi* independence day  
**ucuru** porridge (n)  
*ucuru bwa ugimbi* millet porridge

**ugia mai** fart (v)  
*muntu akugia mai* someone has farted  
**ugima bwa mwiri** health (n)  
*irio biejaga muntu ugima mwa mwiri* food gives health  
**ugimbi** millet (n)  
*ucuru bwa ugimbi* millet porridge

## Ū, ũ

**Ūithīramu** Islam (n)  
*Ūkristo na Ūithīramu* Christianity and Islam

## U, u

**ujuria** fill (v)  
*ujuria iu* fill it  
**ujuria** fill up (v)  
*ujuria itangi* fill up the barrel  
**uki** honey (n)  
*uki buri na murio* honey is sweet  
**ukia** covetousness (n)  
*ukia butibui* covetousness is not good

**ukia** poverty (n)

*ukia kana utonga* poverty or wealth

**ukiiria** exult (v)

*nkoro yakwa igukiiria* my soul exults

**ukiria** lift (v)

*ukiria iguru* to lift higher

**uma tharike** bleed (v)

*ni akuma tharike* he is bleeding

**umiiria** encourage (v)

*mue kuumiiria* encourage her

**umithio** consequence (n)

*umithio bwayo* its consequences

**umuntu** human ()

*turi na umuntu* we are humans

**umutho** left (adj)

*ita ruteere rwa umutho* go left

**umuthongi** pretty (adj)

*muntu muka umuthongi* a pretty woman

**umwe** one (p)

*umwe atitikanitie na ngono iu*  
one does not believe fables

**una** break (v)

*una muti* break the stick

**ungania** mix (v)

*ungania nyanya na ncini* to mix  
tomatoes and pepper

**unthu** enmity (n)

*unthu bubunene* great enmity

**untu** issue (n)

*untu bubueru* new issue

**untu** issue (n)

*untu buu bweru* new issue

**ura** get lost (v)

*ura uri tauni* to get lost in town

**uraga** murder (n)

*kuguuta na kuraga* gossip and murder

**uraga** kill (v)

*uraga mburi* to kill a goat

**urekaniri** forgiveness (n)

*wendo, witikio na urekaniri* love,  
acceptance and forgiveness

**uri na inya** powerful (adj)

*kiroria uri na inya* powerful  
prophet

**uria** ask (v)

*uria Kofi* ask Kofi

**urio** east (adj)

*ita urio* go east

**urio** right (adj)

*ita urio* go right

**urongo** lie (n)

*urongo na ukora* lies and discord

**urongo** deception (n)

*urongo na kurega kugwatanira*  
deception and discord

**ururu** painful (adj)

*mbajua iri ururu* illness is painful

**urururu** pain (n)

*urururu buri aja* the pain is here

**utethio** help (n)

*muntu wonthe niendete utethio*  
everyone needs help

**utheri** mere (adj)

*kiaa utheri* mere fool

**uthiu** forehead (n)

*tega uthiu bwawe* look at her fore-

head  
**uthiu** face (n)  
*tega uthiu bwakwa* look at my face  
**uthongi** fetish (n)  
*tauni iiji iri na uthongi* this town has a fetish  
**uthongi** beauty (n)  
*Uthongi na wendo* beauty and love

**uthuku** evil (n)  
*ni uthuku buriku buubu?* which evil is this?

**uthurania** gather (v)  
*uthurania antu bonthe* gather everyone

**uthurania** collect (v)  
*kuthurania mbea* to collect money

**utuku** nightfall (n)  
*muthenya na utuku* daybreak and nightfall

**utuku** night (n)  
*thaa ijiri cia utuku* 8 o'clock in the night

**utuuro** life (n)  
*tura utuuro bwaku* live your life well

**uu** that (conj)  
*nidikuga uu* I say that

**uu** who (p)  
*nuu uu?* who is he?

**uugira** blow (v)  
*uugira miruki* blow air

**uuma rangi** fade (v)  
*ngui ikuuma rangi* the cloth has

faded  
**uumba** create (v)  
*uumba gintu gikieru* create something new  
**uume** knowledge (n)  
*uume bunthe thigurune* all knowledge in the world  
**uuna** cross (v)  
*uuna ruuji* cross the stream

## W, w

**waa** folly (n)  
*ni waa butheri* it is just folly  
**Wairi** Tuesday (n)  
*ciana cia Wairi* Tuesday children

**wamba** burglary (n)  
*wamba bukingia* burglary is increasing

**watho** law (n)  
*watho bugite* the law says

**we** her (p)  
*nyomba yawe* her house

**we** his (p)  
*nyomba ya we* his house

**we** he (p)  
*we niarjaga* he eats

**wembe** razor (n)  
*noora wembe* sharpen the razor

**Wena** Thursday (n)  
*ciana cia Wena* Thursday children

**wendi** will (n)  
*wendi bwa Ngai* God's will

- wendo** love (n)  
*wendo na thiiri* love and peace  
**wengwa** yourselves (p)  
*cimenyere wengwa bwega* look after yourselves well  
**wengwa** herself (p)  
*niaciete gitio wengwa* she respects herself  
**wengwa** himself (p)  
*niaciete gitio wengwa* he respects himself  
**wenka** only (adj)  
*ugwe wenka* only you  
**weru** light (n)  
*weru bwa iguru* light of the sky  
**Wetano** Friday (n)  
*Ciana cia Wetano* Friday children  
  
**Wetatū** Wednesday (n)  
*ciana cia Wetatū* Wednesday children  
**wingi** plenty (adj)  
*mauntu ja maingi* plenty of issues  
  
**wirane** promise (n)  
*mpa wirane* give me a promise  
**wirane** promise (v)  
*mpa wirane* promise me  
**wirane** testament (n)  
*wirane bu bweru* new testament  
**wirigiro** hope (n)  
*ndina wirigiro* I have hope  
**witikio** faith (n)  
*witikio na thiiri* faith and peace  
  
**yakwa** mine (p)  
*ni biakwa* this thing is mine  
**yawe** hers (p)  
*iji ni yawe* this thing is hers  
**yetu** our (p)  
*nyomba yetu* our house  
**yetu** ours (p)  
*uuni na Kofi, iji ni yetu* I and Kofi, this thing is ours  
**yiumba** creation (n)  
*yiumba rionthe* all creation  
**yonthe** entire (adj)  
*nyomba yonthe* the entire house  
**yonthe** totally (adv)  
*yonthe ni iire* it is totally burnt

Y, y

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